

FINANCIAL TIMES

Wednesday September 24 1975 **10p

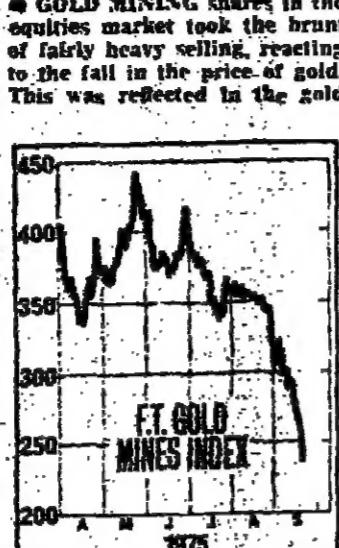

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NEWS SUMMARY**BUSINESS**

artan army Gold index at 20-month low

GOLD MINING shares in the equities market took the brunt of fairly heavy selling, reacting to the fall in the price of gold. This was reflected in the gold

**K. to buy foreign missiles**

mines index, which fell 21.7 to 235.2, its lowest since January 10, 1974. The FT 30-share index ended 9.8 down at 234.9.

GILTS were also unsettled by sterling's weakness and Government Securities index dropped 0.21 to 58.84.

WALL STREET closed 0.55 down at \$19.85.

for right price NEDEC meetings planned to start next month, at which the Government, unions and CBI would discuss a strategy to improve UK industrial performance, have been held over for a month. (Page 8). New director of industrial relations, Dennis is to be Mr. John Cousins, at present national secretary of the TGWU (Men and Matters, Page 16 and Page 8).

am of light Sport Minister Dr. John H. has submitted to representative organisations a draft of the headlights at night rules on all roads.

anish talks Spanish Ministers opened in Madrid with the Foreign Minister the mounting crisis. The fate of 11 people need to be freed for killing officers. (Page 5).

erupts Lebanese militiamen battled rockets, mortars and anti-aircraft guns in Beirut last as their three-day-old cease-fire collapsed for the second time.

A government spokesman army troops would be called in to help cope with the situation limited, non-combatant role.

try on Ford Two attempts on his life mouth, President Ford is trying to curtail his public appearances over the coming days to win support for his 1976 election bid. (Page 4).

ople and places Under inquiry was launched yesterday after the discovery of bodies of two men and a woman with shotgun wounds, on isolated North Devon farm.

U.S. Justice Department has delayed a deportation against Boston John Leinenweber his wife, Yoko Ono, originally expecting a ban on imports of seal skins from South Africa was launched in London today.

For a £3,000 bonus for English footballers if they win European championships castigated yesterday by Mr. Lipton, MP, as bribery.

rebel did not carry out threat to execute French ecologist Françoise Clastre which made a record pre-tax profit of £2.14m. for the same period against £1.68m. (Page 6).

COMPANIES

SEJAM reported pre-tax profits up from £1.22m. to £1.81m. in the year ended June 28, 1975. rebels did not carry out threat to execute French ecologist Françoise Clastre which made a record pre-tax profit of £2.14m. for the same period against £1.68m. (Page 6).

IEF PRICE CHANGES YESTERDAY

(in pence unless otherwise indicated)

RISSES

by Panes... 30 + 8
n & Jackson... 32 + 10
ps (John)... 25 + 15
ide (Robert)... 215 + 50
London Prop... 215 + 50
ils... 25 + 10
ary Contracting... 100 + 10
ma... 40 + 8

FALLS

com... 250 - 15
ock & Wilcox... 125 - 15
n Hand... 225 - 15
r. (J.)... 101 - 5
Union... 147 - 7
Hand Selection... 730 - 70
es House Inv... 246 - 12
Union Can... 335 - 40
2CL... 387 - 14

Rees tightens up Ulster security after bombings

BY GILES MERRITT: Belfast, September 23.

In the aftermath of Monday's intensive Provisional IRA bombing campaign, Ulster to-day saw a return to the harsher security methods of pre-ceasefire days.

The tougher measures decided over-night by Northern Ireland Secretary Mr. Merlyn Rees led to a marked increase in military activity throughout the day, with little easing of tension in the Province.

Yesterday's "limited offensive" by the Provisionals was promptly countered with pre-dawn swoops by the security forces on Republican areas of Belfast, Derry, Newry and Portadown. About 40 suspected activists were detained.

But the Provisionals apparently regard the nine-month ceasefire as still holding, so the Provisionals' front this morning emphasised it is still operating its incidents centres and regards the truce as continuing.

Overshadowed by the security crisis, Ulster's political parties to-day unveiled their proposals for devolved government with the Loyalist leadership firmly rejecting power-sharing at Cabinet level.

In answer to growing speculation here that Westminster will refuse to accept a United Ulster Unionist Coalition "majority report" flouting its guidelines on power-sharing, the Loyalists indicated they plan to stand firm on their proposals with the aim of forcing the Government to resort to a referendum and so reverse defeat on the issue.

The Loyalists' resolve has been greatly strengthened by yesterday's carefully planned response to the Provisionals

Continued on Back Page

Germany blocks adoption of new EEC budget

BY REGINALD DALE

GERMANY to-day took its campaign against new EEC expenditure to unprecedented lengths by refusing to accept next year's Community budget unless the other eight countries agreed to further cuts in spending.

The uncompromising German stand at the end of a 16-hour council session here last night was a direct challenge to traditional rules of EEC decision-making, which do not allow member-governments the right of veto on budgetary issues.

Nevertheless, the German delegation succeeded in blocking any form of government help, says National Union of Journalists general secretary Kenneth Morgan. (Page 9). United Newspapers report a pre-tax profit first half down from £2.75m. to £1.82m. in spite of a £2.00m. rise in turnover. (Page 22). Printing unions representing 30,000 workers in national papers accepted a 2% a-week pay rise. (Page 10).

LONDON WEIGHTING allowances affecting 142,700 civil servants have been set by the Government. The unions are not satisfied, and the matter may go to arbitration. (Page 10).

INTERNATIONAL COMPUTERS has signed an agreement with two U.S. computer companies, NCR and Control Data, to make it an equal third partner in one of the world's largest suppliers of computer peripheral equipment. (Page 9).

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IEF PRICE CHANGES YESTERDAY

(in pence unless otherwise indicated)

RISSES

Glaxo... 370 - 15
Hawker Siddeley... 296 - 8
ICI... 283 - 8
Kleinwort Benson... 110 - 8
Laing (John)'A'... 130 - 10
Lloyd's Bank... 230 - 10
Rock Org-'A'... 140 - 10
Rowntree Mackintosh 152 - 10
Standard Chartered 470 - 20
Tate & Lyle... 218 - 11
Taylor Woodrow... 255 - 11
Tube Investments... 230 - 10
United Newspapers... 201 - 10
Vickers... 129 - 7
Ultramar... 105 - 7
Durban Deep... 440 - 50
Z.G. Geddes... 211 - 20
Fertiliser... 200 - 50
Fisons... 155 - 50
Gardening... 155 - 50
House News... 112 - 15
Manufacture... 101 - 5
Retail... 37 - 7
Southland... 730 - 70
Union Can... 335 - 40
Felixstowe... 33 - 4

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Full approval

The rights issue announced

Subsequent development in the approval of the Board, which includes two B and W U.S. negotiations are in progress.

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For latest Share Index phone 01-246 9026

Ministers to reveal jobs plan to-day

By Richard Evans,
Lobby Correspondent

Gold falls \$6 to \$129;

Pound down 2.65 cents to \$2.0450

BY COLIN MILLHAM

THE GOVERNMENT'S measures to alleviate the rise in unemployment this summer include the building of advanced factories, more training for young people and extra facilities for modernising industries which have run into difficulties, will be announced by three senior Ministers this afternoon.

But the measures will not give a guarantee of early full employment. Nor will there be a series of emergency employment relief schemes, Mr. Harold Wilson emphasised yesterday.

The full package will be unveiled at a Treasury news conference in London by Mr. Denis Healey, Chancellor of the Exchequer, flanked by the two Ministers most concerned with unemployment problems, Mr. Michael Foot, the Employment Secretary, and Mr. Eric Varley, Secretary for Industry.

The conference will confirm the message of harsh winter ahead which Ministers will take to the Labour party next week, but that this attempt to curb the seasonal winter rise in unemployment will stir the most vocal criticism from the party's rank and file.

Mr. Wilson set the theme of the package yesterday when he said in his speech in Manchester that there were harsh months ahead at a time of year when seasonal factors invariably increased the numbers out of work.

A return to more normal conditions depended on movements in world trade, he argued, and there were beginning to be encouraging signs. "We shall be better fitted to seize the opportunities which will face us by the fact that our cost structure is now under control and that we meet that challenge leaner, more nimble, and ready to show our muscle," the Prime Minister added.

To-day's measures would be directed above all to the principal social priorities which must be asserted, particularly the problems of urban areas.

Mr. Healey is expected to reinforce that the selective measures to be announced do not signal any general relaxation of the economy. But there are already signs of acute anxiety among leading Opposition politicians.

Sir Geoffrey Howe, shadow Chancellor, warned last night that there was a grave risk that Ministers might succumb to the severe pressure to take pre-mature deflationary action.

He said at a London dinner that such action would in the end make unemployment as well as inflation a good deal worse.

At one point, sterling sank as low as \$2.0388 before hitting a day's high of \$2.0500, then falling back again.

Dealers attributed sterling's temporary rebound to the "shorting" of the dollar in the market. Trading slackened off somewhat after the close of the London market, they said.

In New York

— Sept. 23 — Previous

Sept. 23 2.0450 Jan. 1 2.3475 fall %

Deutsche mark 2.6712 2.4060 11.1

French franc 4.5787 4.4445 3.0

Belgian franc 40.385 36.145 11.5

Swiss franc 2.7330 2.5400 7.6

Dutch guilder 2.7470 2.5065 9.4

Currencies other than sterling are quoted in terms of their value to \$1. Sterling is quoted in the number of dollars to £1.

dollar was fixed at a high for the year of DM2.6750.

The Bank of Italy gave help to the lire by sales of about \$20m., and this large support in Europe followed earlier reports of \$20m. sales by the Bank of Japan to support the yen at an intervention point of Y303.

Guy de Jonquieres writes:

Sterling was quoted at \$2.0480,

the same level as the London close, in late trading in New York after a day of heavy and erratic movements.

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Being fair to the British people

BY C. GORDON TETHER

PROMINENT BRITONS making the TV a few days back, Britain speeches abroad are obviously under a special obligation to choose their words about the worst government in home side with care—if only that world. It is because their pronouncements are clearly marked impact on listeners who for the most part will have only a limited acquaintance with the subject. But it seems to be a very unsatisfactory form of protocol that allows our itinerant politicians to make "generic" criticisms about their countrymen provided they stop short of attacking fellow occupants of the corridors of power.

One of the main themes of Mrs. Thatcher's fiery peroration of the week was that the principal cause of Britain's fall from economic grace was to be found in its people's addiction to "soft options" and that the best hope for the future accordingly lay in their coming to realise that this had led them into a trap. "I detect among my people back home," she said at one point, "a rediscovery of the virtues of hard work."

The impression this left with the Americans must surely have been that the British had been converted into a race of idlers—something bad enough in itself but which was made incomparably worse by the fact that their workshyness had not stopped them insisting on enjoying the rewards normally reserved for the industrious.

Convenient

Yet I imagine that the great majority of British workers have no sense of having been working any less hard in recent years than they ever did. And, of course, they would be altogether justified in thinking so. Notwithstanding all the talk about our new slackness, the trains still run more or less on time, the refuse is regularly collected, the factories put on one of the best export performances per man in the world, the retail trade caters with enthusiasm for its customers, the police do their duty more than adequately, the newspapers continue to be written by devoted journalists and so on.

It is, of course, convenient for the politicians to lay the blame for the British sickness at the door of the entire nation through "generic" fault-finding. The reality is that, if things have gone so badly for us, it is to a large extent not because of the truth in these stories. If it is encouraged to believe that our human raw material has become sub-standard, it may well decide that there is little hope for us. It is well aware, on the other hand, that there is a way of remedying poor government.

And, as Mr. John Pardoe, Liberal MP, was pointing out on

RACING

BY DOMINIC WIGAN

No problems for Prima Magi

JOHN SUTCLIFFE, whose team has produced a steady flow of winners throughout the summer, appears to have a fine chance of landing with *Prima Magi* today's £5,000 John Sutcliffe Trophy Nursery (4yo) at Lingfield commemorating his late father.

This attractive Divine Gift filly, who followed up her victory over Lady Cromwell here last May by running on to Presto in the same distance in the valuable Ascot Stakes at Epsom's Derby meeting, has been running respectably in smart company recently without making the frame.

This afternoon's seven furlongs, which she is attempting for the first time, ought to present no problems for *Prima Magi*, who will be carrying only 7 st 10 lb. And I hope to see her prove she has lost none of her early season ability by running on to the impressive winner of the expensive

Prigott's mount *Melton*. Even if *Piggott* (who may yet be aboard Brunii in the "Arc" on October 5) cannot take the John Sutcliffe Trophy, he seems likely to have at least one winner. His throughout best prospect, in my opinion, is

the once-raced *Eugenie* in the Nutfield Plate (3yo). Fulke Johnson Houghton's chestnut King Emperor filly, a £6000-guinea yearling purchase,

LINGFIELD
2.00 Lamar River
2.30 Laurentian Hills**
3.00 Estructura
3.30 Eugenie
4.00 Prima Magi
4.30 Star Attack
5.00 Dutch Treat

BEVERLEY
3.15 Orange Bay
3.45 Real Step
4.45 Piercing Note
5.15 Drury Lane

PERTH
3.00 Pan-Man
3.30 Assembly Bell

DEVON
2.45 Fern Beech

4.15 Mac's Birthday

SALEROOM

BY ANTONY THORNCROFT

Six point plan to beat premium

THE ROW between the two to the seller, and to ensure that of the family home of the Earls biggest fine art salerooms in the auctioneers keep to their of Seafield at Culzean House, Banffshire continued yesterday the introduction by the salerooms of a stated intention of charging the premium at a flat rate, and to investigate any breach of this undertaking.

The fact that the dealers have not intensified their boycott of the salerooms must mark a marginal victory for Sotheby's and Christie's, but the likelihood that the dispute will drag on must harm the reputation of London as an art centre and could unsettle prices in the saleroom.

The only concession made by Sotheby's and Christie's is that they will review the working of the buyers' premium at the end of the new season next July.

• The dispersal of the contents

Olympic fund seeks £250,000 tax repayment

BY ARTHUR SANDLES

BRITAIN'S 1976 Olympic appeal fund will ask the Government to give it back the £250,000 tax which the Olympic committee is likely to pay in the course of its fund raising activities over the next few months. The only way the tax can be repaid is as a direct grant.

The dealers are going to promote their own willingness to buy outright at prices equal to the combination of the knocked down price and the buyers' premium in order to produce the £500,000 net, since corporation tax would

have to be paid on the £250,000 which, it was hoped, would come from promotional campaigns for consumer products.

Asking for a direct grant was "the only way," said the Olympic committee. "We will have to make a formal approach as soon as possible."

British will send about 475 competitors and officials to the summer Olympics in Montreal in July and the winter competition in Innsbruck in February.

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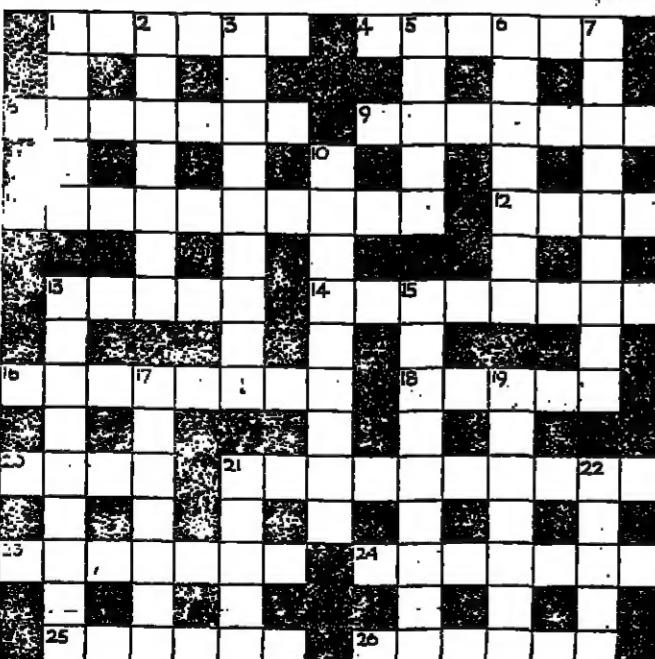
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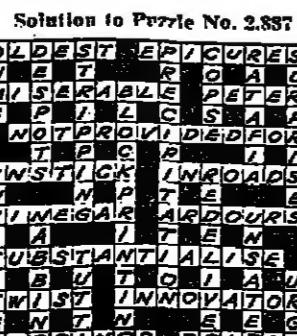
TV Radio

+ Indicates programme in black and white.
BBC 1
9.35 a.m. For Schools, Colleges, 11.30 You and Me, 11.00 For Schools, Colleges, 12.30 p.m. News, 1.00 Pebble Mill, 1.30 On the Farm, 2.01 For Schools, Colleges, 3.58 Regional News (except London), 4.00 Play School, 4.25 Roobarb, 10.45 To-night.

F.T. CROSSWORD PUZZLE No. 2,888



Solution to Puzzle No. 2,887



time
bulbs



of Mario Basso's designs for the new production of Janacek's 'Jenůfa' to be presented jointly by Welsh National and Scottish Opera. On the left: Barera; the Foreman; right:

vision.

Good King Richard's Golden Days

by ANTHONY CURTIS

only ten years since Dimbleby went off the good? Watching the box it seems like another Broadcasting Life revealed him in all his jolly of roles. Here he was saty pre-war panelist on radio, and then as the war-correspondent of the 8th Army at Alamein; as signal anchor man of the ever Pomeroy; as the jolly accompanist to the Great on, spelling out the names of the Coronation ceremony; or the order of precedence at Churchill's funeral always with of fill-in material up his sleeve; in case of a hitch, a jolly joker pulling out legs the spirit-freeze of a career. In a state of despondency, the traumatic of Belfast when it had just started. The programme led to a miniature history detective in what one now calls the golden days.

An exquisitely appropriate title should have been "In the same week that the publication of Reith's book, if ever anyone told the true spirit of home with the Civilianism of self-discipline and decorum, it was, be, poke fun at his pointed

reliably expect to find television at this autumnal hour of launches and restartings. Doughty stumbled into their midst.

Ian Rodger who scripted the Adminunson piece had a somewhat easier task than David Howarth who did Doughty. In that the conquest of the South Pole has an inherent element of dramatic tension which a pilgrimage to Mecca lacks. It emerged that Adminunson pipped Scott to the Pole because of his superior supply-base strategy and his callous and controversial use of dog-power. He slaughtered the less robust dogs halfway through the outward trek and used their meat to feed and thus re-fuel the remainder of the pack and his men. This notorious "Butcher's Shop" episode was all too vividly simulated with Adminunson in his hut trying to drown himself to the sound of ride-fire and the purity of the snow outside fouled with the bleeding carcasses of dead huskies.

In following Doughty's foot English Adminunson's team steps Mr. Howarth mercifully has yelled at each other across the nothing quite as horrible as this escape in Norwegian and the to offer but he made the most

of mirages and a sand-storm in which the explorer was severely blinded. He did, too, hint at the fascinatingly complex motivation in a man to whom mastery of the English language and preservation of its pristine richness was as great a compulsion as mastery of the desert and understanding of its peoples.

Doughty was beautifully recreated in his Arab dress as gentle, fastidious, determined, mad.

A writer of our own time who has much of this complexity, though for "desert" substitute "jungle," is Graham Greene. As a novelist he has always seemed to me to be a much better explorer than he is a theologian. *Shades of Greene* (ATV), a dramatisation of his short stories continued last week with *Cheat in August*, one of his best. An English wife of an American professor of literature who is approaching the watershed of 40 goes to Jamaica in the off-season in search of sexual adventure (why she could not find this in the campaign according to novels like Alison Lurie) and actually works there would be simply rampant, with it is none too clearly explained). Anyhow she finds it all right but rather against her will in the person of an elderly retired American gangster. The unlikely pair are drawn closer and closer together over bourbon and tears in the bedroom because she finds the spectacle of failure and rejection in an American so much more heart-warming than the familiar one of success and acceptance. The two antagonists were played to absolute perfection by Virginia McKenna and Lee McKern.

There is nothing heart-warming about a failed comedian, even a would-be one, as we discovered from *Laugh ... I Could Have Cried* (ATV), a documentary about a school for comedians run by a retired comic in Manchester. Slim Wood was having terrible time trying to get three of his pupils to put some punch into their patter. The odder the joke the more carefully it needed to be walked. John Cleese proved in the first episode of "Fawlty Towers" (BBC-2), a situation comedy series about a small private hotel run by the owner and his wife (Prunella Scales); on present form I would give it only two stars in the Guide Wodehouse, but it's early days.

The best comedy of the week came however not from Cleese nor from Billy Dainty or Stanley Baxter but from the veteran team of Thorpe and Day who appeared for one night only at Scarborough. Here, from memory, is part of their routine:



Leo McKern and Virginia McKenna in "Cheat in August" (ATV)

Entertainment
side is on Page 12.

and he was a sitting for mickey-taking, but wondered, would he think of the interviews we see ya, the ill-concealed concern with which people in all of public life are treated day come to the studio to sit down and the giggling innuendos with a woman in the often caressing and that shows.

I did become plain about this interesting program from the contributions by the administrators and critics of Dimbleby era, like Anthony de Loppe, Donald Mullan, Grace Wyndham, Paul Fox, was just such new ground was won vision by his intense professionalism. I cannot truly feel that we have gained in it to mention and discuss that for Dimbleby were reasonable we have paid for heavily in triviality and once.

ground, new ideas, new even, are things we might

Juda Fine Art / Lissom Gallery

Two modern sculptors

by WILLIAM PACKER

ern sculpture remains a commendable simplicity: but she takes the idea of the chain, qualities of abstraction, its very simplicity, to loom so large in the general viewer, as to him to other considerations. Labouring under the support that rears up from the floor, or stretches itself away from the wall, holding aloft so easily a variety of bars and beams and hooks.

It is a very simple conceit, the Indian rope trick done again and carried through with great aplomb. But it could easily be overdone, the work becoming but an endless round of variations on the theme, little simple, even to a fault. Plain more than a trade-mark. This wooden boxes, that simply are show, however, does bear the boxes, and nothing more, promise of a rounding-off, a summing-up, a sense of what is now several below eye level. There are 12 of year's work. And Miss Taylor them, beautifully made and eyes in any case the kind of apparently identical, save for artist, who makes apparently the pattern of the grain on the sun surface. All have false backs fundamental changes of surface. All have false backs, though small, is a space, always flattening the work shown in it, and, even empty, still affording real pleasure to the visitor, especially with the sun shining in downstairs. But such are the claims of purity implicit in its policy, the full and shiny ash-tray came as something of a surprise.

These distinctions: and we may speculate too on the spaces thus sealed off.

So far so good, for the minimalism is worth making; but it is possible to make too much of a good thing. Judd has made it many times, always elegant and economical, but just a shade repetitive perhaps. Here he is alone by allowing each element in the work to be just itself, a hook, or beam or chain.

At the Lissom Gallery in Bell Street (until October 4) is some recent work by the American minimalist Don Judd. It too is sculpture that is self-explanatory, but much more explanatory, and much more variations on the theme, little simple, even to a fault. Plain

shining in downstairs. But such are the claims of purity implicit in its policy, the full and shiny ash-tray came as something of a surprise.

Hampstead Theatre Club

The Ecstasy of Rita Joe

by B. A. YOUNG

At the great Swiss Cottage playhouse Where the buses go to Finchley, Go to Golders Green and Finchley. Lies the Indian reservation Conjured up by Mr. Ryga.

All the young romanticism of Hibiscus blossoms anew in George Ryga's play. It is an example of noble savagery. Rita Joe is a recidivist, petty criminal, with a string of convictions for vagrancy, shoplifting, prostitution. Ah, but Rita Joe is an American (or to be more specific, a Canadian) Indian, so she must be forgiven her obstinate irresponsibility.

George Ryga was born in Canada and has lived there for 40 years, so no-doubt his picture of provincial Canadian life, with the Indians coming in from the reservation only to get drunk or take some mean job, is a true one. But Rita Joe (a kind of Indian Carmen, as Toby Robins plays her) can hardly be allowed to act out her life as a petty criminal just because a century ago the white men came and stole all her forebears' lands. She probably knows next to nothing about the history of her people, anyway, and declines any free education she is offered.

She has little excuse for her delinquency, for her father David Joe (Donald Burton) is the chief of the tribe, a figure of tall traditional dignity who never

as if he might at any moment never bother to turn up. The blame must lie with her regular boy-friend Jamie Paul (Bernard Lloyd), a quarrelsome drunk.

The play starts with Rita Joe before the magistrate, but there is little dialogue (in the current usage) between them or indeed between anyone else. Characters turn to the audience and tell them what's going on, or if they do get involved in a conversation, they cut it short as soon as a single idea has been transmitted. The effect is of a worn pattern illustrating the shape of life on the fringes of the reservation. It is a sharp, informative pattern, but has only a modicum of dramatic interest, in spite of Nicholas Renton's picturesque production.

Although it is evident that Mr. Ryga's sympathies are with the Indians, he does not make them particularly pleasant bunch. Only David Joe, who says things like "It is not clear like dress against the snow," is allowed self-respect. The young men are a lot of jabs whose resentment of the whites is no more comprehensible to an outsider than the resentment of the Indians. True, the whites — magistrate, schoolteacher, shopkeeper — are themselves fairly short of understanding. "We give them cheap X-ray clinics," says the magistrate indignantly. "and three-quarters of them

were not even drunk. The Indian begin a picturesque burial ceremony. In no time the Canadian padre (Frederick Farley) has come along to provide a Christian service in competition. An effective scene, this, and probably says more clearly what the play is about than anything that has come before.

Celebrity concert at Crosby

Victoria de Los Angeles is to give a gala celebrity recital to inaugurate Crosby's new civic hall opening on Monday, October 8. The concert is being sponsored by the Midland Bank, as part of its policy to assist worthwhile local community projects. Crosby Civic Hall's opening concert is also the start of a two-week festival to celebrate the opening of the hall.

Festival Hall

Finnish Music

by GILLIAN WIDDICOMBE

It is 70 years since Sibelius was fined £2 6s by a Dover customs officer, for attempting to smuggle cigars, on his first British visit; and less than 20 since he died, aged 91. To understand how much the ownership of a figure such as Sibelius means to a country like Finland — where musical life may seem relatively provincial beside that of mainland Europe and the world's biggest cities, but is now healthily catering for both its metropolitan and rural communities — is hard for outsiders. A rough equivalent is to imagine in Hyde Park a huge metallic bust of Elgar, as beloved by flash-light photographers as the Copenhagen mermaid, the Statue of Liberty, the Eiffel Tower, or Westminster Abbey.

Thanks to Collins, Beecham, and later Barbirolli, the British seem to have appreciated Sibelius more readily than say the French, German or Austrian public. And his effect on British composers in the 30s

symphonies contain much Sibelius-like figuration and bleak scoring, has been so distinct and fruitful that we probably owe more to Sibelius than to Elgar. One way and another, the featuring of Sibelius by the week-long Festival of Finnish Music is in more ways than one a case of apes cap not old hat. Lorin Maazel and the London Symphony did a complete symphonic cycle at the Festival Hall a few years ago; but the Fourth, which dwarfed Monday's opening concert by the Bournemouth Symphony and their Finnish conductor Paavo Berglund, has lain inexplicably fallow. The First will be played by the Finnish Radio Symphony on Friday, with Osko Kamu.

The Fourth is the sad symphony; built rather simply on the interval of a fourth, and bounding it constantly through four relatively conventional movements, with scherzo second, loose-knit largo third, and fading finale. Its energy is very pure, and masterly, depending less on contrast and dance rhythmic patterns than on bare, sustained

Banking man-to-man

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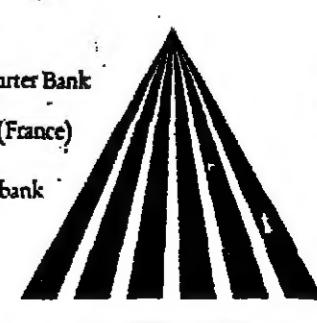
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Juda Fine Art / Lissom Gallery

Two modern sculptors

by WILLIAM PACKER

ern sculpture remains a commendable simplicity: but she takes the idea of the chain, qualities of abstraction, its very simplicity, to loom so large in the general viewer, as to him to other considerations. Labouring under the support that rears up from the floor, or stretches itself away from the wall, holding aloft so easily a variety of bars and beams and hooks.

It is a very simple conceit, the Indian rope trick done again and carried through with great aplomb. But it could easily be overdone, the work becoming but an endless round of variations on the theme, little simple, even to a fault. Plain

shining in downstairs. But such are the claims of purity implicit in its policy, the full and shiny ash-tray came as something of a surprise.

At the Lissom Gallery in Bell Street (until October 4) is some recent work by the American minimalist Don Judd. It too is sculpture that is self-explanatory, but much more explanatory, and much more variations on the theme, little simple, even to a fault. Plain

Cut down
hooting

The Financial Times Wednesday September 24 1975

OVERSEAS NEWS

OPEC expected to raise oil prices by 10%

A price rise of about 10 per cent is expected to be imposed by Ministers of Petroleum of the Producing Countries at their conference here to begining [sic] tomorrow.

Ever such a compromise probably be reached only through efforts by the price—Algeria, Iraq, Libya, Nigeria—to set a higher rate to the rate of a nearer to the cost of goods by the producers.

Arab is adamant that adjustment "as OPEC here prefer to call the like—should be no more than 10 per cent, which would be cost of the basic Gulf oil crude" to \$1.50 and something like \$770m to a trade deficit at the rate of imports. The also want implementation delayed until January than from October 1, when price freeze expires.

As it is, the clear consensus in OPEC is that introduction of the indexation system should be delayed until after the start of the producers' dialogue with indus-

tration capacity in hand, should mean that its influence on the price issue should prevail, especially as Iran, Kuwait, Abu Dhabi and Qatar are also in Shiekh Ahmed Zaki Yamani, Saudi Minister of Oil, may not be able to resist pressure for an immediate increase to compensate for the inflation in the cost of imports, estimated to have risen by 30-35 per cent last year.

Apparently bearing in mind political and other considerations, OPEC's economic committee is understood to have proposed an upward adjustment substantially less than that figure. Today it finalised its recommendations, which also include proposals for the indexation of oil prices in future to take account of world inflation and protect the purchasing power of oil revenues.

It is the clear consensus in OPEC is that introduction of the indexation system should be delayed until after the start of the producers' dialogue with indus-

'Sizeable' oil finds off Indian coast

By K. K. Sharma

NEW DELHI, Sept. 23. SEVERAL NEW oil bearing structures have been located by India's Oil and Natural Gas Commission near the rich Bombay High off-shore tract, where drilling is now in progress to produce 2m. tonnes of crude by the end of next year.

The new structures are between Bombay High and the Western coast of India. Points located for exploratory drilling have been found near Dhu and Daman Islands. A fairly large structure north-west of Bombay High has also been found. Taken together, the offshore region in the vicinity of Bombay High could lead to sizeable oil-producing fields in India's western continental shelf.

In the meantime the Carlsberg group of companies today started drilling its first well in the Igbar Basin concession off the shore of Orissa State and hopes are high that oil will be found in the eastern part of the continental shelf.

In a television interview the Petroleum and Chemicals Minister, K. B. Malaviya, was extremely optimistic about reaching not only self-sufficiency in crude but also exporting it in the early 1980s as a result of the new discoveries.

It is understood that the documents also provide for a joint Israeli-Egyptian military commission which will begin operating one month after signature by Israel, and will supervise the entire Israeli withdrawal to new strategic defence lines east of the Mitla and Giddi passes. The redeployment is to be completed within five months.

L. Daniel adds from Jerusalem: Now that the technical protocol has been concluded in Geneva by the Egyptian and Israeli working group the next step is likely to be the passage of an Israeli-bound cargo (aboard a non-Israeli flag-ship) through the Suez Canal. It should take place within the next five or six days.

GENEVA, Sept. 23.

The first step in the implementation process is the Israeli withdrawal from the Abu Ruweis oilfields in south-western Sinai. This is scheduled to begin within two weeks from the date of signature of the protocol by Israel, and must be completed by eight weeks.

It is understood that the documents also provide for a joint Israeli-Egyptian military commission which will begin operating one month after signature by Israel, and will supervise the entire Israeli withdrawal to new strategic defence lines east of the Mitla and Giddi passes. The redeployment is to be completed within five months.

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Sinai accord is completed

DAVID EGIL

MENTS AND maps governing the implementation of the Sinai agreement were completed here early this morning at the end of a second day of negotiations.

Although most of the details of implementation had been settled before the weekend, last minute difficulties arose over the Israeli decision to withdraw signature pending Congressional action. While this was accepted by the Egyptian delegation, counterpart concessions were demanded from the Israelis in the body of the documents. The deadline for agreement on implementation came out at midnight on Monday, but by common accord the clock was stopped and when the UN announced agreement they backed it to Monday.

The Egyptian delegation offered no explanations for their decision to sign the documents immediately, but it was widely assumed that the intention was to place on Israel the burden of responsibility for any subsequent documents provide a timetable for troop move- delays.

ments and other aspects of implementation of the Sinai agreement, the main body of which was signed here on September 4.

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tation, signifying their approval of the final draft, and the chairman of the military group in which the two sides have been meeting over the past weeks, said he was con-

cerned that this two-stop procedure could not materially affect agreements reached. The documents provide a pre-

amble for troop move- delays.

Israel welcomes Kissinger plan

L. DANIEL

INITIAL response to-morrow when the Israeli Foreign Minister Yigal Allon has a working breakfast with the Secretary of State.

The East conflict—has been towards talks with Syria on an interim or overall settlement. The official circles here say that Dr. Kissinger called "other interested states."

Louis Faris writes from Damascus: King Hussein arrived here to-day to confer with Syrian President Hafez Assad on recent Middle East developments.

Official Jordanian sources said the King "wants to co-ordinate with President Assad a joint foreign policy in the aftermath of the Sinai agreement."

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THE ISRAEL ECONOMY

Catching the tax fiddlers

BY L. DANIEL, TEL AVIV CORRESPONDENT

NOW THAT the agreement between Israel and Egypt has been initialled, the Israeli Government will have to give urgent attention to the deterioration in the country's economic situation.

The main symptoms of this deterioration are the drain on foreign currency reserves which, as things stand now, can only be halted or slowed down by yet further borrowing abroad; low productivity of labour; a poor and uneven tax-raising performance; and unrestrained consumption.

True, Israel's inflation rate, which topped 55 per cent in 1974, has been slowed with the increase in the consumer price index for the first 7 months of the year officially put at 9.4 per cent as compared with 23.2 per cent for the same period of 1974.

However a somewhat higher rate of inflation is expected for the remaining five months of this year in view of the tax reform which went into force on July 1, and the cumulative effect of the so-called "creeping devaluation." The Government in June authorised the Treasury to devalue the Israeli pound by two per cent every 30 days.

The slow-down in the rate of inflation does not reflect any contraction in the buoyant consumer demand. This, coupled with the fact that the profitability of exports has improved, has led to the continuing diversion of much of output to the home market. Exports rose by only eight per cent in the first seven months of this year, which in fact spells a decline in real terms.

Imports were down by one per cent, but this still left a yawning trade gap of \$1.22m. The eight per cent drop in the deficit is encouraging, but as U.S. economic aid (as distinct from military aid), as well as contributions by world Jewry and foreign investments, are likely to fall below last year's levels, the immediate problem is the prevention of a disastrous fall in foreign currency reserves.

These started to improve following last November's 41 per cent devaluation of the Israeli pound, but have shown a down-

ward tendency recently. The and even the trade union leadership acknowledged in July that any exceptions to or modifications of the new law would prove fatal to the whole reform, some erosion has already taken place.

These infringements are not yet important in themselves, except in so far as they perpetuate an atmosphere of tax evasion. Large sections of the population do not pay any tax at all and

Moreover, the figure will grow further, since each mini-devaluation of the Israeli pound involves the Government in additional subsidy payments on basic commodities whose prices it has been trying to keep stable in order to prevent a rise in the cost-of-living index with all that this implies both for wage levels and the Government's obligations (service and debt retirements) on its index-linked debentures.

So far the public, while realising that the purchasing power of its pound is declining steadily, is not alive to the dangers of the situation. With the emphasis on the need for keeping a 1:3 arms "balance" with the Arab countries, little thought appears to have been given by the population to the implications of the very real cutback in U.S. general economic aid, a cutback which can only be compensated for by less home consumption and more exports.

There has been little response to Premier Rabin's call to the nation to work harder and to lower living standards. It seems strange, but it is a fact that a people which is so ready to make any sacrifice in wartime, is reluctant to do a really full day's work in peacetime—even if real peace is still so far away.

This being so, the Government will have to resort to yet further taxation. With Finance Minister Rabinowitz and Mr. Moshe Zanbar, the governor of the Bank of Israel due back from Washington, and the Jewish holiday season ending this month, sizeable increases in purchase tax and excise duties seem an almost certain bet. If these steps do not reduce local demand, the Government might have to take additional steps to encourage exports.

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Spanish Government concerned at death sentence protests

BY ROGER MATTHEWS

MADRID, Sept. 23.

THE JUNIOR ranks of the Spanish Government, including Madrid meanwhile dictated sentences to ten years on five members of the Left-wing group FRAP they expected to discuss the who had been found guilty of mounting crisis over the fate of illegal association. The accused 11 people sentenced to death for claimed they had been tortured killing police officers.

The Government is seriously worried about the internal and international repercussions of the sentence of death. Ten defence lawyers, who were thrown out of the Government, under the chairmanship of General Franco, is for interrupting the prosecutor, widely expected to be crucial. Only the Head of State can commute the sentences although he is bound to be influenced by a law.

In the Basque province of Guipuzcoa, police announced that two civil guards escaped injury when subjected to machine gun fire, while in Bilbao three alleged members of the Basque separation group ETA were arrested. Two are aged 17 and the other 20.

In Madrid the Socialist party, together with a number of fringe Left-wing political groups have called for "a day of struggle" to-morrow condemning jointly the death penalties, "fascist repression and the cost of living." Few observers to-night expected it to have much success.

Feature, Page 18

BY RUPERT CORNWELL

MME. Françoise Claustre is still alive.

This morning rebels in Northern Chad did not carry out their threat to execute the 36-year-old archaeologist they have held prisoner for 17 months, and negotiations are in full swing for the French Government to pay the Frs.10m. (£1m.) demanded for her release.

Confirmation of Mme. Claustre's reprieve was given this morning by the spokesman of French President Valery Giscard d'Estaing, and for the first time in weeks French officialdom is obviously

optimistic that her life can be saved.

The deadline set by rebel leader Hissene Habré was for 10 a.m. to-day. Hours later, however, the Elysée Palace said that discussions for her release were continuing and that a new meeting between Government representatives and the guerrillas had been agreed for later this week.

The deal that is shaping up is for France to pay the Frs.10m. in the form of Frs.4m. cash and the remainder in equipment such as jeeps, lorries, uniforms and medical supplies. Contact between the

two sides has been maintained by the powerful transmitter dropped near the rebel stronghold in the Tibesti desert last Friday, and a French military aircraft which has been circling the area for more than 24 hours.

In the meantime, while the two sides work out a timetable for the exchange of the equipment, which weighs some 80 tons, and money for the archaeologist, the handful of French radio and newspaper correspondents in the Tibesti have stopped sending reports

back to Paris, at the request of the Government.

As hopes for Mme. Claustre rise, France's relations with the Chad Government, which has been fighting the rebels in the North for some three years, are growing steadily worse.

Last night the ruling Military Council in Ndjamena issued orders confining the 2,000

French troops in the country to barracks and pulling back French personnel at the air base of Sahr—from where the aircraft dealing with the rebels appears to have taken off—into the capital.

The air is thick with bitter accusations against the French Government for blatantly infringing Chad sovereignty, and the country's ruler, General Maloum, is reportedly furious at the fashion in which France is negotiating on an equal footing with "the leader of a gang."

In Kampala, President Idi Amin of Uganda, who is the current chairman of the Organisation of African Unity, has said that any shipment of equipment or cash to the rebels in Chad by the French Government would be a breach of international law.

ECSC to give rec'd. elect and stee

By David Curn

BRUSSELS: The European Coal Community seems to year to push its stricken EEC coal industry to recover itself to raise a record sum on the capital market.

By the beginning of October the Commission already granted £1.5m. credits of \$37.5m. (around £225m.) and called applications for £1.7m. (U.S. \$1.2m.) from industries. Of this it is to grant a further £600,000 of which will be available in the year. Of the £1.5m. it is understood that no £300m. represents credit to the U.K.

Last year the EC granted loans of £77.5m. (a record sum) raised some \$27.7m. (equivalent to £17.5m.) in fact, the pattern of financial alliances which existed prior to June 15 has already been drastically altered by the fight for power which has taken place since then and which culminated in the removal of Amintore Fanfani from the secretaryship last July.

The view that the party's survival as a viable political force depends on basic internal reforms like this is one of the main points put forward by the new party secretary, Benito Zaccagnini, and has received a responsive echo from party leaders desperately searching

for a new role in the aftermath of last June's local election setback.

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for a new role in the aftermath of last June's local election setback.

This year the Commission raised £1.5m. by the end of September and has raised some 400 end of the month.

The Commission may

climate for investment in steel industry, which is user of funds, is favourable, and it is

also demand for each to live terms of the less depressed state of the

It has been underlined

that over the next few months the EEC steel production

down 23.5 per cent of

period of last year.

The put was put at some

cent. with a target of

main steel countries

between 25 and 50.

Talks between Sec

and the Brussels Com

restraints on Korean exports to the EEC shortly following what

mission describes as a

narrowing of differences

between the two sides

negotiating session

Meanwhile, the C

Ministers will agree

to extend until the e

year the restraints o

range of Korean trade

imposed unilaterally by

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The sharpening of the

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Communist Party scores biggest gain in Finnish election

By LANCE KEYWORTH

HELSINKI, Sept. 23.

PRELIMINARY results of Finnish general election that last night show no major party has gained three seats and now have nine seats and the Swedish People's Party gained one seat to 10. A key factor in the compilation and probably protractedness of forming a new parliamentary government. The 73.8 per cent poll is the lowest since id War Two.

The general relief among politicians that the "mavericks" of Parliament have been virtually wiped out. The Rural Party dropped three of its five mandates, and its splinter faction, the Unity Party, has only one member left out of its previous 13.

The most interesting feature of the results so far is that the Communists, who when they saw that they were the biggest individual victors in the election announced that they would be willing to participate in the new government, provided its programme is right. But this is far from saying that the Social Democrats or Centre would be prepared to accept them.

The first reaction of most party politicians is that Mr. Kello Linna's caretaker Cabinet may have to carry on for several months as the negotiations for a new coalition government will be tough and long.

Norwegian PM likely to be replaced soon

By PAX GJESTER

OSLO, Sept. 23.

NORWEGIAN Prime Minister Bratteli, who has headed Labour Party Government since 1971, is likely to be succeeded in the fairly near future by the party's parliamentary leader, Mr. Oddvar Nordli. A for his retirement as Prime Minister is expected to be set in the party's national executive meeting on September 26-26 in Oslo, East Norway.

Mr. Nordli was nominated by our national Congress five years ago as the "natural candidate for the Premiership". His date was fixed for his succession but it was expected that would take over soon after September local elections.

In the months since the Congress, however, Mr. Bratteli has unexpectedly refused to when he planned to retire. stubborn silence has worried colleagues in the party leadership who wanted the succession settled in good time before next parliamentary elections in autumn of 1977.

Now, with local elections only out of the way, they have decided to force his hand. Yesterday the party's central executive appointed a committee of six, including Mr. Bratteli—whom is of 90m; loss of oil equivalent to be sole function is obviously to be reached by 1980.

Swedish stocks increase

By WILLIAM DULFORCE

STOCKHOLM, Sept. 23.

VEYS conducted in August by Central Statistical Bureau of a continued slowing in values, which indicated unbalanced economy. Companies operating in the second quarter of year production stocks in steel and paper industry grew 28 per cent, while at the same time stocks of unsold ore and oil rose by 28 per cent. Number stocks rose by only 1 per cent during the period. Sales have been low for more than a year and stockyards are settled in good time before next parliamentary elections in autumn of 1977.

Stocks of finished goods in steel mills rose by 11 per cent. Only the engineering industry continued to sell well, stocks rising by only 2 per cent during the quarter.

Industrial companies with 800 or more reported a 1 per cent increase in turnover for the first half of the year, or Kr.400m. higher than last year.

Simonet warns on sea oil

By LUCILLE SIMONET

LUXEMBOURG, Sept. 23.

MON MARKET Energy minister, Henri Simonet, today that Britain risked itself out of world markets if it fixed excess prices for its north sea oil. "It is not just important to protect the oil but also to find buyers for it," M. Simonet told a stormy session of European Parliament. "And if oil prices are too high, its price could go elsewhere for their oil."

Simonet was replying to comments from British Labour

Reuter

Swiss output falls 17% in second quarter

John Wicks

ZURICH, Sept. 23.

AUSTRIAN GNP fell in real terms by 3 per cent in the first half of 1975 compared to the period last year. Announcing this to-day, the Institute for Economic Research confirmed the sudden downturn in economic activity.

As recently as last March the institute predicted a growth of 2.5 per cent and in December nearly 4 per cent for this year. The psychological impact of the poor performance can only be grasped if one recalls that Austria has had an average growth of 6 per cent during the past five years.

Meanwhile, figures issued by the Central Office for Statistics indicate a continuation of adverse trends. Industrial output in July was 9.3 per cent down and consumer spending 12 per cent lower on the month in 1974.

CAR-MAKING IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA AND EAST GERMANY

A four-stroke tandem

By LESLIE COLLITT, Berlin Correspondent

THE TWO MOST ADVANCED producers of consumer durable goods in Eastern Europe, East Germany and Czechoslovakia, have apparently decided against purchasing "turkey" plants or wholesale licences from the West to produce long delayed new car models. Both countries instead have agreed on pooling their own resources which, if carried out, would preclude major deals with western motor manufacturers on the scope undertaken by the Soviet Union, Poland, and Romania with Fiat and Renault. That, however, would not preclude the GDR and Czechoslovakia making more limited deals involving the supply of western equipment, machinery, or know-how.

The most interesting feature of the results so far is that the Communists, who when they saw that they were the biggest individual victors in the election announced that they would be willing to participate in the new government, provided its programme is right. But this is far from saying that the Social Democrats or Centre would be prepared to accept them.

The first reaction of most party politicians is that Mr. Kello Linna's caretaker Cabinet may have to carry on for several months as the negotiations for a new coalition government will be tough and long.

a jointly-developed basic vehicle produced in two different versions by the Wartburg plant in Eisenach and the Skoda factory at Mlada Boleslav. Skoda 1300 and 1500 cc engines were to have powered both vehicles, which would have included various East German components, such as the gear box.

The idea began to fade as technicians on both sides discovered that the means and the will to proceed were lacking. One Comecon car maker explains that neither the GDR nor Czechoslovakia were in a position to invest the large sums of money that would have been necessary to expand and modernise the Wartburg and Skoda plants. The Eisenach plant in particular, is in a cramped pre-war factory built by BMW, in order to achieve the sort of economies of integration implicit in the original agreement, a wholly new car factory would probably have been necessary.

Under the newly-signed framework agreement, Comecon sources report, new GDR Wartburgs are to be developed to succeed the present one in production for ten years. The Wartburg will, if all goes well, have 1200 to 1300cc water-cooled four-cylinder engine produced by Skoda. This will mark a major advance for Wartburg which used a two-stroke engine. A third cylinder was added in 1970, squeezing some 50hp from the GDR and engine. The future Wartburg is expected to incorporate a number of other Czechoslovak components. Limited co-operation failed to materialise. It envisaged

exists already, as the Wartburg's new twin circuit brake assembly with front wheel disc brakes is described as a joint development with Czechoslovak plants.

Skoda, too, will be coming out with a new model "some time after the next Five Year Plan," which is to contain GDR components. Whether these will in-

not aware of the targets which how and equipment. But both the auto industry was to be given to the planners. They should operate on a large scale to know more by the turn of this year, when a clearer picture western car manufacturers.

One of these industrial officials explained: "Build our countries what they may want to buy from major polluters on the roads of eastern Europe as the GDR exports nearly half its automobile output to this area. A Yugoslav environmental study not long ago singled out these engines as most undesirable on these grounds. However, the Trabant is also the cheapest car made in the Comecon realm. Its fibre glass body and basic engine make it easy to repair. That is an important consideration for buyers in countries where the number of garages range from 1,200 in the Soviet Union for an estimated 2.5m. cars, to about 1,000 in Czechoslovakia, which has an estimated 1,850,000 cars.

There seems little doubt that if the GDR and Czechoslovakia are willing to invest enough in plant and equipment to develop new models, they could produce cars which would better satisfy buyers in eastern Europe and comply with minimum pollution standards.

In planning long-range co-operation, both countries appear to have written off the western European market. Wartburg (sold as Knight in Britain) and Skoda (also Knight in Britain) had footholds in a number of western European countries which, despite most attractive prices in the West, have virtually been lost. At the same time, exports to the West of Soviet

Ladas and Polish Fiats are scar-

ing... pride in their industrial prowess, more than plain economics may explain why the two most similar Comecon countries believe they can do without major outside purchases of car technology."

"As one of the world's largest users of raw materials, we see it as our duty to waste nothing—not even waste."

From a report by Dr. B. Werminghausen of BASF's Plastics Applications Department



BASF, the largest plastics manufacturers in Europe, have done a great deal of pioneering work in the packaging field. BASF's invention of Styrofoam, for instance, first made possible the transporting of many foodstuffs and fragile industrial goods without damage. However, BASF did not

stop at making a material that prevents loss through damage in transit; it also developed a method of utilizing the material after it had served its primary purpose, so that it did not become a source of litter. Waste expanded Styrofoam is the source of material that can be used in many ways for improving soil. This recycling is just

BASF are one of the world's largest chemical companies. The chemical industry takes the earth's resources in their most primitive form and converts them to complex, highly sophisticated substances that do specific jobs: as dyes and plastics for example, fertilizers and pesticides, or the substances that render wood pulp into glossy printed pages.

But the earth's resources are finite. We must take care to use them wisely, re-use them where possible, and waste nothing—not even waste.

BASF spend over £300,000 a day on research into these and other problems; and more millions in disposing of by-products and waste materials in a constructive way. It is considered a priority, because BASF have two articles of faith: technology is only useful insofar as it serves man; and technology must solve the problems it creates.

Name _____ Company _____
Address _____

BASF

BASF are the people concerned

HOME NEWS

NEDC talks on industry put off for a month

BY KENNETH GOODING, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

THE SERIES of National Economic Development Council meetings at which the Government, the unions and the Confederation of British Industry aim to develop an agreed strategy to improve the U.K.'s industrial performance, due to start early in October, has been postponed for a month.

Announcing this yesterday, Sir Ronald McIntosh, director-general of the National Economic Development Office, emphasised "nothing transpires to importance in Britain to-day than the need to improve our industrial performance."

Without this the U.K. would not be able to achieve its social objectives "and we could soon face—sooner than most people realise—the prospect of irreversible decline," he told a seminar organised by the British Mechanical Engineering Confederation and NEDC.

Sir Ronald also made it clear that the industrial strategy should give a clear priority to manufacturing industry. "Manu-

factured goods are still by far the largest element in our export trade and it is on the health of the manufacturing sector that our national solvency ultimately depends," he declared.

Discussions on a medium-term industrial strategy were due to begin at the October 6 NEDC meeting when a paper outlining the Government's view-point and drawn up jointly by Mr. Denis Healey, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, and Mr. Eric Varley, the Industry Secretary, was to be discussed.

But both Treasury officials and the CBI had asked for more time to consider their reaction to the paper. The CBI publicly complained that unless it saw the early this week it would not have time to produce a reasoned view at the NEDC meeting.

It is now intended that the Government paper should be distributed among Council members at the beginning of October and then come up for discussion at the November meeting, when it is expected that

Cousins to join NEDO

By Roy Rogers
Labour Correspondent

MR JOHN COUSINS is to leave his post of a national secretary at the Transport and General Workers Union to join the National Economic Development Office where he is to be manager and industrial relations director.

The objective behind the strategy will be for the NEDC and Government to pinpoint key areas of the economy to which the movement of resources can be speeded up. This would involve making sure that important growth sectors were not impeded and also spotting those vital areas of industry in genuine decline.

Sir Ronald told the seminar yesterday: "The failure of our main political parties to agree on this week it would not have time to produce a reasoned view at the NEDC meeting.

It is now intended that the Government paper should be distributed among Council members at the beginning of October and then come up for discussion at the November meeting, when it is expected that

MP calls for State motor Bar on insurance corporation

BY JOHN BOURNE, LOBBY EDITOR

RADICAL PROPOSALS for a State motor insurance scheme are to be submitted to two important Labour policy committees by Mr. Norman Atkinson, MP for Tottenham and a leading member of the Left-wing Tribune Group.

Mr. Atkinson, who will again be running against Mr. James Callaghan for election as treasurer of the Labour Party at the party conference next week, outlined his scheme yesterday.

In about a week he will be submitting a memorandum on it to the National Executive's home policy committee, at present headed by Mr. Anthony Wedgwood Benn, the Energy Secretary, and to the Executive's industrial policy sub-committee, headed by another leading Left-winger, Mrs. Judith Hart.

Mr. Atkinson, who will press for his ideas to be contained in Labour's next election manifesto, said yesterday that the first problem was for the State to tackle the large number of unlicensed drivers—"up to 1m.

He describes his new post as trying to urge employers and trade union leaders that increased industrial investment would benefit all and expects it to involve "everything from sitting at a meeting with the Chancellor of the Exchequer to negotiating on the shop floor with management and members of unions."

Men and Matters, Page 18

Admitting that he personally favoured the State taking over all forms of insurance and financial institutions, Mr. Atkinson said that his Corporation would be a tentative step in that direction. The Corporation would eventually issue policies for comprehensive motor insurance, fire and theft.

These policies could be made fairer for the motorist by partly basing the premiums on information about each driver obtained from the already large computerised licensing centre at Swansea, and from specialist Motoring Courts.

"These courts would be able to apportion blame for motoring accidents" and administer a system of penalty points which would affect the motorists' insurance premiums.

Mr. Atkinson envisaged his Corporation helping the garage trade to improve its standards of repairs and to standardise labour costs, charges and wages.

The immediate task of his proposed National Motor Insurance Corporation would therefore be to take over all third-party insurance, paying for it not through motorists' premiums but by a levy on all motor fuel.

"To meet the £220m. cost of existing third-party premiums would require a levy of 3.5p a gallon, and it would not be excessive," he said.

The estimate of some insurance experts," he said.

The immediate task of his proposed National Motor Insurance Corporation would therefore be to take over all third-party insurance, paying for it not through motorists' premiums but by a levy on all motor fuel.

The Corporation could assist a "very under-capitalised trade" with loans, and by instituting a system of inspection and seals of approval. It could also establish centralised warehousing where garages could quickly obtain spare parts.

Humber tidal model closed

Land Bill 'concessions'

BY JOE RENNISON

THE GOVERNMENT now seems prepared to make further concessions on the Community Land Bill.

In its original version, the Bill, until now there has been much confusion and criticism of the definition wide and very vaguely defined of what the original powers over the acquired Bill defined as "relevant development" and "non-relevant development". Originally, this was left

Proposed amendments to the Bill, which will define more accurately the powers of Parliament. The new proposals, published yesterday in a policy statement issued by the Department of the Environment.

Two new categories of development are proposed: these are likely to be made in detail, if "exempt development" and would seem that they will mean "excepted development". The

that there will be less control over smaller pieces of land and is outside the scope of the local authority.

Financial Times Reports

THE DEPARTMENT of Trade has taken a further move against imports from the Far East, said yesterday, would not consider applications for licences for the import from South Korea.

Quotas on goods from Korea were imposed on 23 under a EEC Council Directive. They are, in fact, "range" of goods, imposed by the EC because of a failure to agree totals.

On August 8 the Government suspended licences to import from Taiwan.

The Trade Department has been so swamped by applications for licences to import from South Korea that it has enough to cover all the quota, added.

Officially, no licences given for goods shipped from South Korea port August 22 until quotations are sorted from applications.

Goods shipped before 22 but which have arrived will be allowed the quota. This is because a quota was imposed on July 1st. Department. But the amount of goods en route from Korea is not thought large.

Because of the difficulties for Taiwan, the Department ruled that it would not be allowed the quota until at least until 29. Goods imported from Taiwan since the beginning of the year have already hit the quota.

Importers, with which left Taiwan after 22 but which have not yet British ports face the risk of keeping them in ware considerable cost. One BPT Leisure International claims to be Britain's importer of garment Taiwan, says it has 10 ships about to dock with cargoes worth between £5m. and £3m.

These goods had been under irrevocable credit, according to Mr. Davies, managing director of BPT.

patient

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HOME NEWS

CL agrees to \$22m. link with two U.S. companies

CHRISTOPHER LORENZ

AL'S INTERNATIONAL (CPI), the company which was set up by NCR and Control Data in May 1972, ICL's declaration of intent to take a one-third shareholding was announced yesterday. It is an equal third exactly two years later, in May 1974.

In the world's second largest peripherals equipment market at a cash cost of \$22m., CPI's charter covers card readers and punched line printers, magnetic tape units, credit card readers, but not disk. These more forms part of a growing trend in the international computer industry to pool the venture, in this case with Honeywell and manufacture of well, but ICL has bought its computer Peripherals Inc. The new deal is the first step to

wards a merger with NCR and Control Data. The two U.S. companies are also working together on the development of a joint line of large computers.

Following ICL's initial acquisition, the enlarged CPI will have assets of about \$60m., and will establish a research, development and manufacturing facility in the U.K. to be known as CPI Data Peripherals. This will design and make peripherals of an electro-mechanical nature for the three partners as it expands its operations over the next two to three years, ICL said yesterday.

Apart from making ICL more competitive on both the domestic and international markets by allowing it access to greater economies of scale than it could achieve alone in such standardised products, the deal is intended to strengthen the basis of the nascent U.K. peripherals industry through the commitment of NCR and Control Data to using the British operation as their source for peripherals in the U.K. and European markets.

• Spain, which includes the Univas computer group, said yesterday it was awaiting Spanish Government approval to establish what it claims would be Spain's first mainframe computer manufacturing company. Sperry would hold 49 per cent of a joint company, and the plant—probably in the Seville area—would be likely to start output with Univas' small 30/30 computer.

Hundreds of orders for Norton Commandos pile up

PETER CARTWRIGHT, MIDLANDS CORRESPONDENT

TEAMS from Norton Triumph, action controller, the Wolverhampton now in the hands of the all Recovery, are trying to up interest in Italy and the our new models, including aing new engine, hundreds for existing Norton and machines are available.

Recently, an order was sent from Saudi Arabia for commandos. Another sub- order came from us. These were mainly for army and police type

understand about 10,000 trial engines are in stock and the order book over the last months covers 14,000

night, the action controller, which seemed unaware full extent of existing and old orders, agreed to con- restarting the factory.

if we are certainly not back to make money for referential customers like who are primarily res- able for sacking 1,800 of us," Mr. Jack Everett, a senior member of the committee,

Nuclear pacemakers or 200 patients

DAVID FISHLOCK, SCIENCE EDITOR

ONIC McPUWERED heart pacemakers provided by the Department of Health will be used, at a cost of about £10,000, in 200 heart patients in over the next year or so.

Nuclear Fuels has issued a letter of intent from Health Department for 200 batteries to be manufactured by the Harwell research establishment of the U.K. Atomic Energy Authority.

The estimated £11,000 a month, the contract is expected worth about £200,000, with a bivalent contract for the older electronics going to a local engineering company.

Nuclear Fuels has undertaken the commercial exploitation of the miniature plutonium power battery, which it is said could be earning more than £10m. a year by the early

well's research and development effort so far is led at about £100,000. The battery is designed for a life of 20 to 30 years, and many would be brought in "all our experience from manufacture," said Dr. J. Avery, the director responsible for the new venture. At least 70 nuclear pacemakers already been implanted in patients, at four British sites, since Harwell first said that it was developing a nuclear pacemaker battery. In 1971, another dozen were implanted

Fidelity seeks return of insurance company

ERIC SHORT

HAROLD J. RICHARDS, president of Fidelity Corporation of Virginia, U.S.A., said today that his corporation would take for the control of Fidelity Life Assurance to be added to the Corporation at a forthcoming court hearing scheduled for October 8.

A petition for the winding up of Fidelity was presented to the High Court on July 23 by Peter Shore, the Secretary of State for Trade. This came after revelation of the £1m. investment by Fidelity Life in the Harry bank London and Security Securities. This was stated a loan and not a by the Bank of England and therefore was not covered by Fidelity's support operation.

Richards said that the action taken by the Corporation was the only means whereby pressure could be brought upon the Bank to reverse its decision. All Fidelity policy-holders should write to the Governor to protest at the Bank's decision.

The Bank of England said that it had nothing to add to the statement made concerning the investment in London and County.

were not covered by the remaining assets. Mr. Richards reaffirmed that his corporation considered itself free from any obligation contained in any guarantees made to its subsidiary, while the Bank persisted in its present course of action.

The Department of Trade earlier this year required a cash injection of £750,000 into Fidelity Life once the position of the £1m. investment with London and County became known. When Fidelity Corporation refused to put up the money, the liquidation petition was presented.

Mr. Richards said that the action taken by the Corporation was the only means whereby pressure could be brought upon the Bank to reverse its decision. All Fidelity policy-holders should write to the Governor to protest at the Bank's decision.

The Bank of England said that it had nothing to add to the statement made concerning the investment in London and County.

**Labour Party celebrates anniversary**

The Labour Party yesterday commemorated its 75th anniversary by publishing items from archives which span the years.

The Party was founded in 1900 at a meeting in London, off Fleet Street, as the Labour Representation Committee.

A pictorial history was introduced yesterday by Lord Shinwell, now 80, who joined the Independent Labour Party three years after the ILC was established. With Mr. Alan Bayard (right) the present general secretary of the

party, he looks at one of the documents. They include two historic posters—one produced by Keir Hardie, first Leader of the Labour Party, in the general election of 1910 and seen over their shoulders—as well as a pictorial history and an "Among Our Sons" series of 25 original documents and letters.

The pack, includes a circular written by Ramses Mardonale in 1911 to members of the Parliamentary Labour Party on conduct in the House and a 1903 letter from Lenin

NUJ leader calls for State aid to newspapers

BY LORNE BARLING

SOME FORM of Government assistance to the country's newspaper industry was urged by Mr. Kenneth Morgan, National Union of Journalists general secretary, yesterday.

Mr. Morgan, giving evidence at the first public hearing of the Royal Commission on the Press, said that the time had come for the nation to recognise that the Press had a particular role in democracy.

"Perhaps the nation itself has some responsibility to create conditions in which the Press can discharge that role adequately," he added, but warned that his union regretted the continued concentration of control in the provincial Press, although this was clearly an advantage in technical terms.

Britain was alone among European countries in not offering some community help for existing newspapers and opportunities for the launching of new publications.

"For many years most of the interests in the newspaper industry have taken the view that Government intervention, either directly or by a Government agency, is a bad thing. We no longer think that argument compels an arm of government."

However, it was in need of reform, particularly for research facilities, but merger legislation was not sufficient to prevent newspapers from takeover and although co-operative ownership had not proved very successful so far, new forms of ownership related to the nature of the operation should be considered.

The Press Council should retain its autonomy and not become an arm of government.

Mr. Morgan told the Commission that a proposed scheme to pool advertising revenues and a need for some appeal procedure redistribute them more equitably was not workable. Individual companies would not favour it.

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further 1 million square feet currently under construction. There are also plenty of sites for purpose-built factories to meet specific needs.

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Their extensive local knowledge means that they can help you choose the best site for your project and help arrange the financial assistance for it.

Their service is free and confidential.

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Yorkshire & Humberside, Tel: Leeds 442171 (STD code 0532)

East Midlands, Tel: Nottingham 46121 (STD code 0802)

West Midlands, Birmingham, tel: 021-632 4111 (STD code 0752) or Bristol 291071 (STD code 0272)

London & South East, London, tel: 01-212 6243

Eastern Region, London, tel: 01-212 6280

Northern Ireland, Tel: Belfast 54486 (STD code 0232) or London 01-493 0601

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To: The Industrial Expansion Team, Department of Industry, Millbank Tower, Millbank, London SW1P 4QU

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The Areas for Expansion

الموافق



Volvo introduce day notice lights. Because you don't have to pass a vision test to be a pedestrian.

Day notice lights are lights you notice in the daytime.

They shine through the same lenses as the Volvo's front parking lights but they're four times brighter.

Four times easier to pick up in bad light.

Four times easier to see through the rain. Or the trees.

The theory behind them is simple: what the eye can see the feet can avoid.

Recent research in Sweden and America has shown that day notice lights can dramatically reduce pedestrian accidents.

And last year in Great Britain there were 23,600 of them.

Day notice lights are being fitted to all the new '76 models in the Volvo 240 and 260 series.

They come on when you turn on the

ignition and they remain on until you use the car's normal lights or switch off the engine.

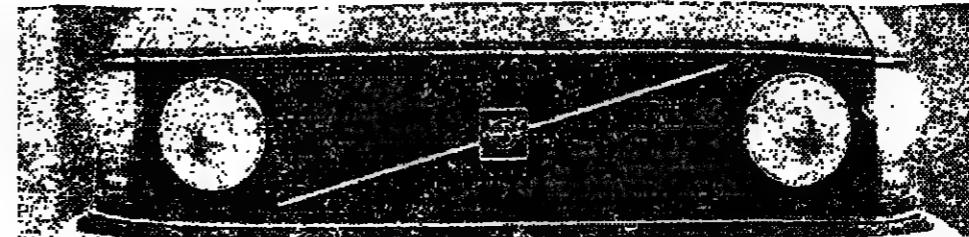
The light is diffuse, so there's no risk of glare as there can be with dipped headlights.

And because the lights run off the alternator, not running down your neighbour won't mean running down your battery.

Of course, some people will scoff.

Driving around with your lights on, they'll say, is just another example of Volvo's over-concern with safety.

Just like they said in 1959 when we were the first major manufacturer to fit seat belts as standard. **VOLVO**



FINANCIAL TIMES REPORT

Wednesday September 24 1975

FELIXSTOWE

During the past ten years Felixstowe has swiftly developed as a port. The number of ships arriving there has more than doubled and the tonnage of the cargo handled has increased by a factor of ten.

Felixstowe's economy there has been a necessary shift away from the town's attraction as a resort to its new importance as a port. With a work force of 1,100, the Felixstowe Dock and Railway Company, a thriving private enterprise concern, has had a great impact in recent years.

From small resort town to thriving port is a transition of considerable dimension. Even after the Second World War, when Felixstowe's image conjured up memories of happy holidays by the sea, no-one would have believed it possible that the present modern dock complex would be developed.

The port, with its continually improving facilities, and the better road facilities to the dockside, is changing all that.

Taking the ten years from 1885 to the present centenary year of the Felixstowe Dock and Railway Company trade through the port of Felixstowe has steadily grown. For instance, the number of ships arriving at the port has more than doubled from the original figure of 1,500 a year and the tonnage has increased by a factor of four. The tonnage of the cargoes handled has, meanwhile, increased by a factor of ten. Those are the basic statistics against which Felixstowe's claims to success must be measured.

The potential of Felixstowe as a centre for the movement of goods, not just from East Anglia and the immediate hinterland but cross-country from the Midlands is now recognised. Facing

them are, to sustain



The children's boating pool with a putting green in the background.

a place for those who want a quiet day or week relaxing beside the sea.

As headquarters of Elson's, much of the character of Felixstowe reflects the agricultural hinterland surrounding it. Between the town and Ipswich there is a cordon sanitaire of flat East Anglian fields that stamp the town as very much part of Suffolk.

Even the changes currently being brought about by the port activities owe their origins to that port's original establishment as a port of exit for the shipment of grain. However, though one might regret the passing of Felixstowe as a modest, demure resort, it is to the port that the town must look for future prosperity.

The foresight and imagination which have gone into Felixstowe's development, with its associated warehousing, storage facilities, and port amenities are beginning to bear fruit for the Felixstowe community just at the right time. They have re-established Felixstowe on the map at the moment when changing leisure habits threatened to erase the resort from it.

A decade hence, and one might envisage a town reborn as a prosperous port, visited not just by the day-trippers but by many of those using the recently established car ferry services, and with amenities which would guarantee Felixstowe its traditional role as a resort. They will first, however, have to do something with that railway station.

REPORT WAS
TEN BY
ER BEARD

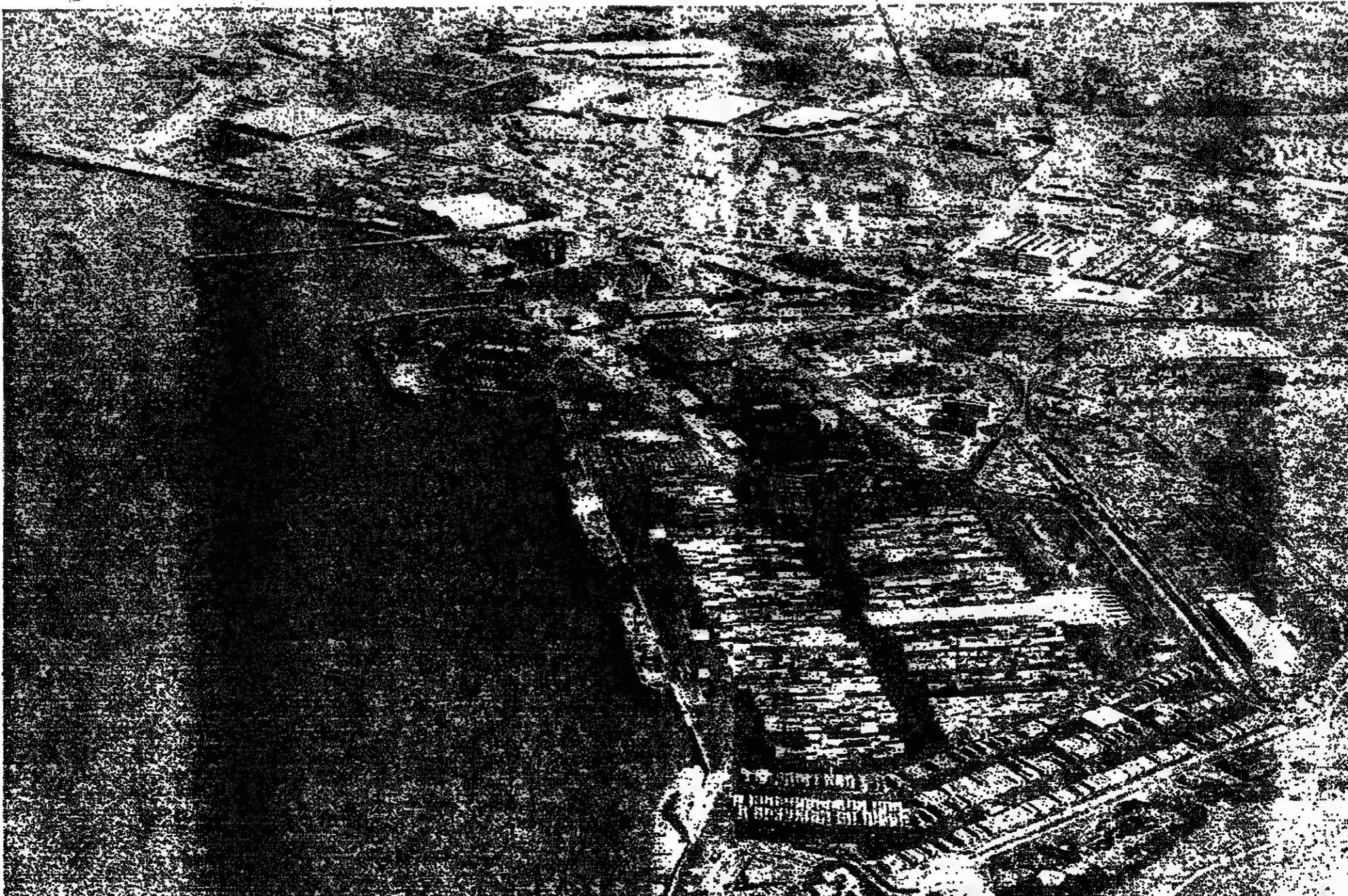
A train from London's Wool Street Station to change onto the single-track line and you will be at Felixstowe. The station, but faded monument to an engineering will tell much about this Suffolk. Only one platform is in use; no ticket office, and no echoes echoes to the foot of the occasional day.

For Felixstowe, population 30,000, is changing. Gone; for ever, are the long-holiday makers. They have replaced by day-trippers taking advantage of warm weather and fine days which made the town so dear with their Victorian pessars.

trippers do not contribute as much to the town's economy as the long-stay tourists used to do. Welcome they are, to sustain

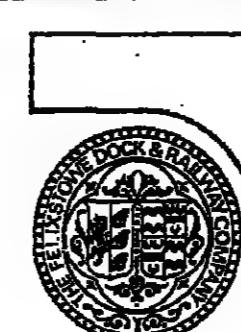
the promise of a greater flow both Felixstowe. As a resort, the has two such venues, the Spa pound per head of the resort's Felixstowe was and still could has, meanwhile, increased by a from the other EEC members, leisure league. It does, however, figures reveal that both these local government spending, and Many of those facilities Felixstowe stands at the cross-over, provide pleasure to a entertainment centres made it should be remembered that demanded by the local population roads of a transition into a number of visitors. The combined net loss of over Felixstowe is just one part of tion are available in Ipswich major commercial centre. There economic facts underlying £13,000 in the first half of this the re-organised Suffolk Coastal which is not only the nearest no facet of Felixstowe life. Felixstowe as a resort contrast year, even though the range of District Council, the outlook is town of any size but the natural from the provision of good as a port. attractions run from the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra to professional wrestling. It is calculated that the Spa Pavilion is a quiet centre for shopping and other link to the national system. particularly if it rains, on their subsidised to the tune of £26,000 There is, of course, the other indoor facilities. Felixstowe per annum, or more than a ciation of what kind of resort particular clientele. It still has

THE FELIXSTOWE DOCK & RAILWAY COMPANY



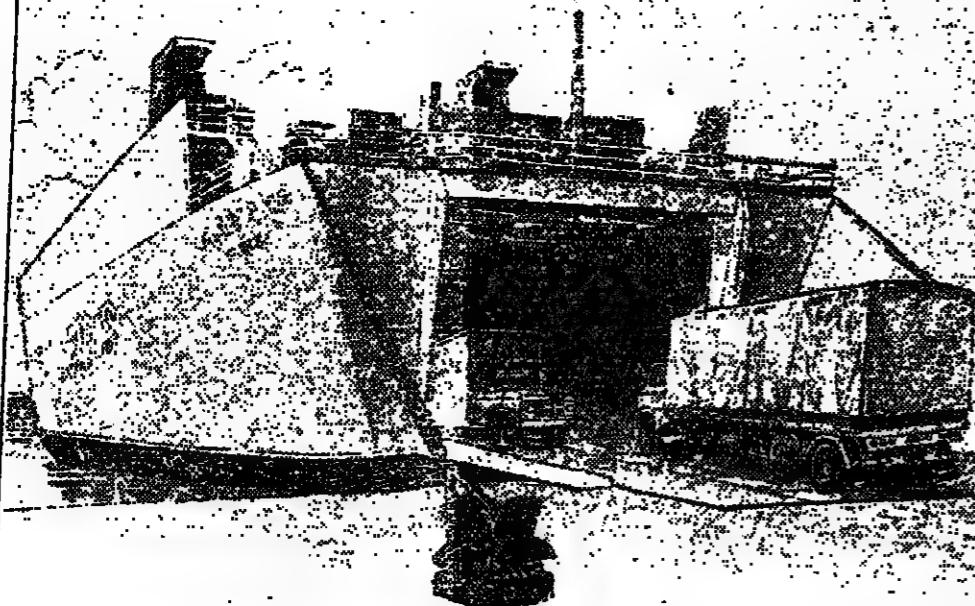
The Felixstowe Dock & Railway Company,
Felixstowe,
Suffolk IP11 8SY.
Telephone:
Felixstowe 4433.
Telegrams:
Dock, Felixstowe.
Telex: 98277.

CENTENARY
1875-1975



Port of Felixstowe

Fred.Olsen Lines 



THE UK-NORWAY MOTORWAY

The first Ro-Ro ships built for Fred Olsen Lines, the Bayard and Bohemund, are now in regular service on North Sea routes.

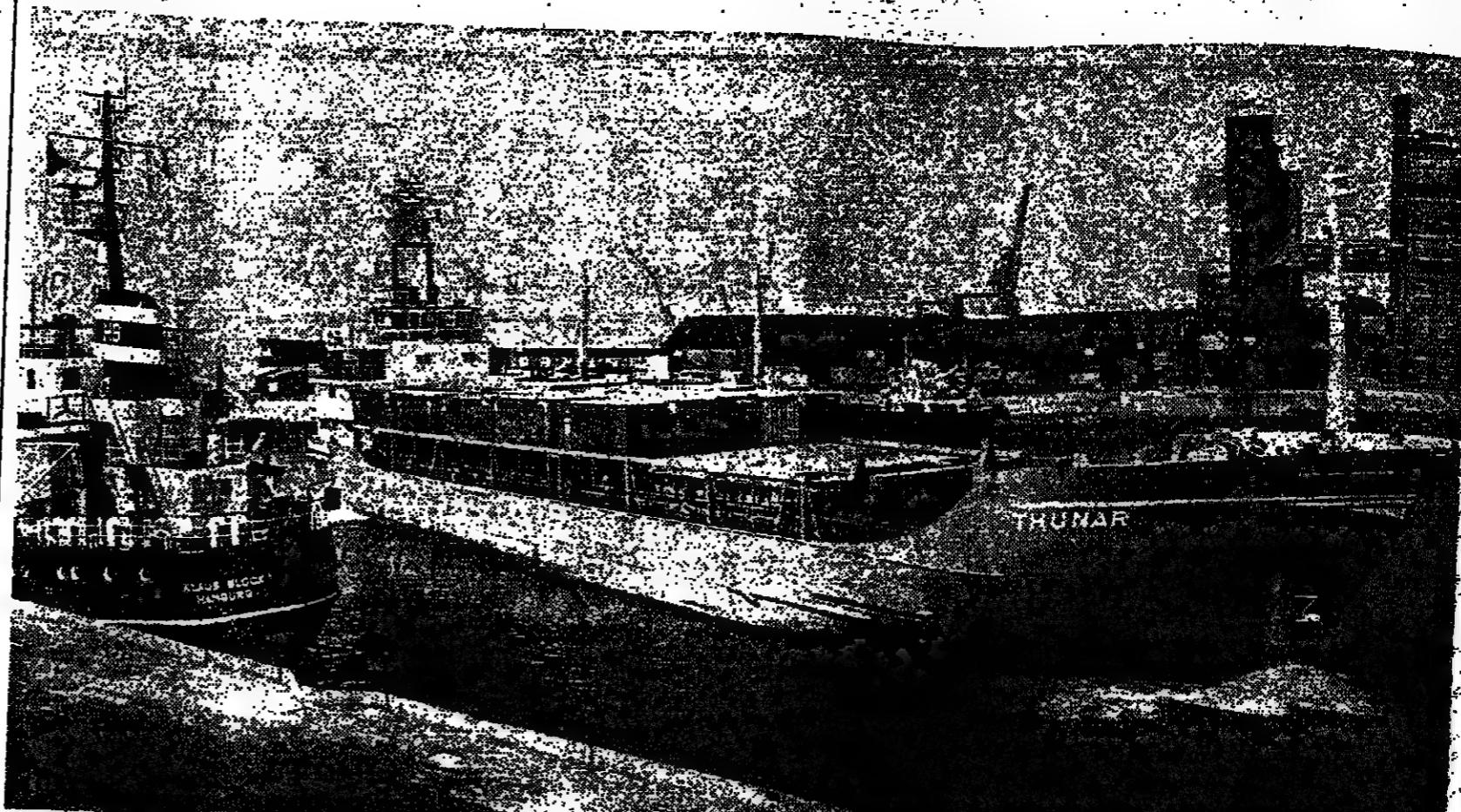
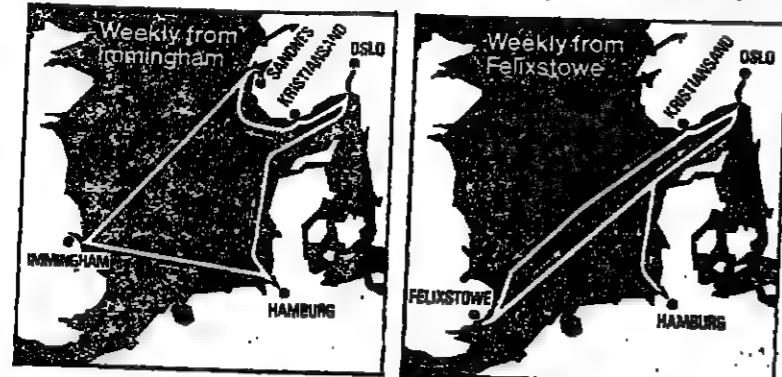
These new ships have been

designed for multi-purpose cargo, and carry containers, trailers, flats; vehicles, wheeled machinery and accommodate up to 12 persons.

The completion of the

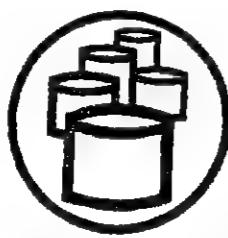
Bohemund enables the line to include Hamburg twice weekly on the schedule. For more information contact:

Fred Olsen Ltd. 33-34 Bury St., London EC3A 5AT, Tel: 01-222 4488



A container ship enters the docks.

The success of Felixstowe, which is the only private enterprise port of any size in the United Kingdom, represents a triumph of enthusiasts against the odds. Yet only a short time ago the dock was silted-up and regarded as unlikely to be much used again.



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THE FELIXSTOWE Dock and Railway Company this month celebrates the anniversary of its foundation: one hundred years of mixed fortunes which have culminated in one of the more remarkable success stories of British port development. The only private enterprise port of any size in the United Kingdom nowadays, Felixstowe owes much of that success to the energies of one man, the present chairman and managing director, Gordon Parker.

When he took control of the company 24 years ago, the once grandiose concept of the Felixstowe Dock and Railway Company had been reduced to a small, silted-up dock, rotting away and unlikely to be used again. Mr. Parker, a successful East Anglian corn merchant, became interested in refurbishing the dock to deal with the import and export of grain.

That was the beginning: an astute business decision which has since grown from a single idea into one of the most successful of the country's ports and is now of increasing national importance. Ports, however, do not grow like Topsy. They need planning and skilled staff.

Mr. Parker acquired the experts, who quickly set about planning the recovery of the port: not just with an eye to the grain trade, but with the other eye set firmly on the obvious potential of Felixstowe as a port primarily serving Europe.

Many said it could not be done: but with a small band of workers the derelict dock was carved back into life. Old buildings were restored to use, antiquated steam cranes which had seen service in the Great War were brought back into

operation. By "spatch-cocking" answer to the nationalised docks and working on a shoestring, the seeds of the present port were sown.

What was also created was a bond of common interest which, until recently, was a paragon of industrial relations in what elsewhere was the jungle of dockland. Though overtime bans are now a part of Felixstowe dock life from time to time, good industrial relations have mainly ensured that little time is lost in port operations.

Rival ports would see the Felixstowe operation as idiosyncratic. Coincidence, the enthusiasm of an individual, the lack of a strong union tradition among the East Anglian work force, may all have played their part in establishing Felixstowe as a profitable port. The slow, methodical build-up of trade, the gradual improvement of facilities such as roads. The extension of capacity to cope with the increased trade, all helped.

There is, however, another lesson to be learnt from Felixstowe as a port. Through aggressive selling, frequent trips to overseas ports to gain new trade, and a young, enthusiastic approach from the working population, the town has developed an enthusiasm which gives the outsider the impression that they cannot fail to continue their success.

Behind this lies a general willingness by the men to accept new handling methods as they become available, provided they receive the right reward, and a hard-headed appreciation of the value of consultation in industrial relations.

It is axiomatic to successful port operation that ships are turned round in the fastest time

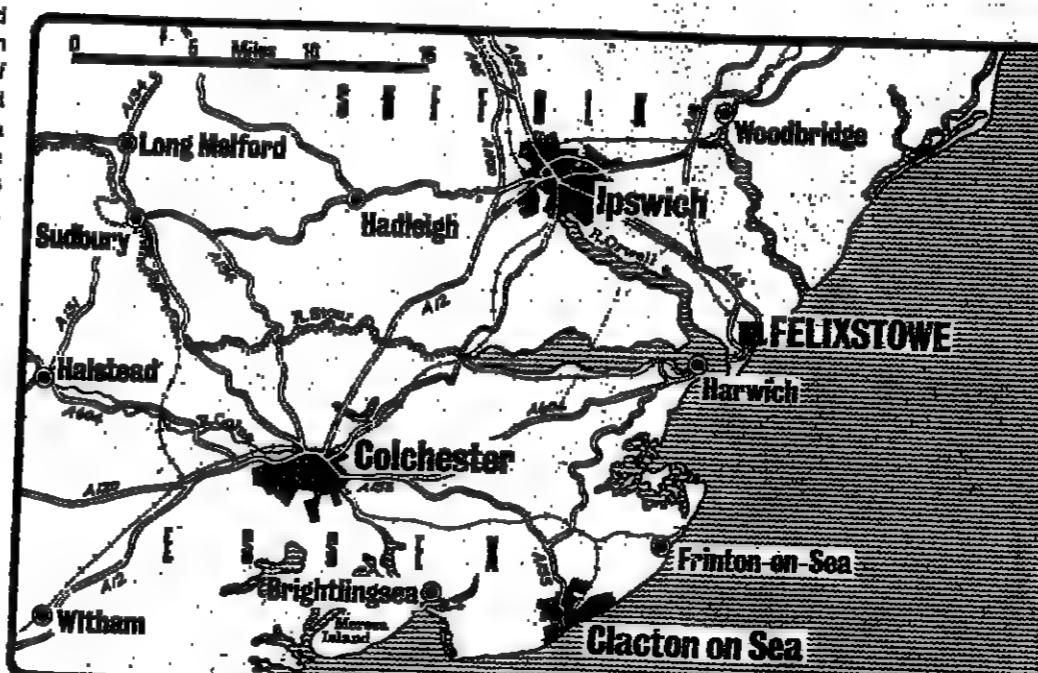
within the capacity of the cultural and period property which depends on efficient handling prices.

A three-bedroomed period house goes in the region of £10,000 to £11,000. Further up market in the villages and hamlets surrounding Felixstowe, but within the capacity of the cultural and period property which fetches the highest methods, far more on good industrial relations. The port cottage, set within a third of an acre is on the market for £19,000, and there is a variety of modernised cottages—all at relatively high prices—whose

inevitably lose its trade to a rival. Felixstowe, they say, of modernised cottages—all at relatively high prices—whose

operation of private enterprise's period charm coupled with the

Surprising revival



brought up-to-date extension of roll-on/cargo facilities, the introduction of passenger ferry services, the installation of modern housing and cold storage. What was once a dock of interest, now the industrial archaeology of the port with Freightliner's handling equipment of a standard as any met.

longer established British

Dream

Many of the Felixstowe staff are rejoined: the company's port was little more than a dream in a grain mill. These have risen the ranks to top management. Now, with a of 1,100 that family may change. It would be brought up-to-date extension of roll-on/cargo facilities, the introduction of passenger ferry services, the installation of modern housing and cold storage. What was once a dock of interest, now the industrial archaeology of the port with Freightliner's handling equipment of a standard as any met.

Three hundred acres

and handling 3.5m. cargo

year, with trade to

various foreign ports

stowe's port represents

triumph of enthusiasts

the odds. Eyed enviously

current do not like. There could result in similar appointments being made elsewhere, there are as many less

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FELIXSTOWE III

The roll-on/roll-off business has been largely responsible for the expansion of the cargo trade. Extensive quays cater for the container traffic and much modern equipment has been introduced. There have also been significant improvements in road and rail communications.

Cargo handling

Bob Kalmraten, Felixstowe's executive director, believes the port is Britain's fastest shipping outlet and, a set of fast figures made of £540,000, and he will add, "I don't answer, we say, 'our men give you eight hours' work a day."

A record of which Mr. Kalmraten is proud, together with continued expansion, charge using the most equipment suitable for its size. Felixstowe's an independent port. The port is fast, free handling of cargo, rapid turnaround of and of road transport.

A dock basin that can be used at any stage of the extensive quays to or the container and since much of the port's success has been built on roll-on/roll-off trade, the improvement of the route south to Ipswich and Ipswich to Felixstowe, the cargoes have increased considerably over the years.

als

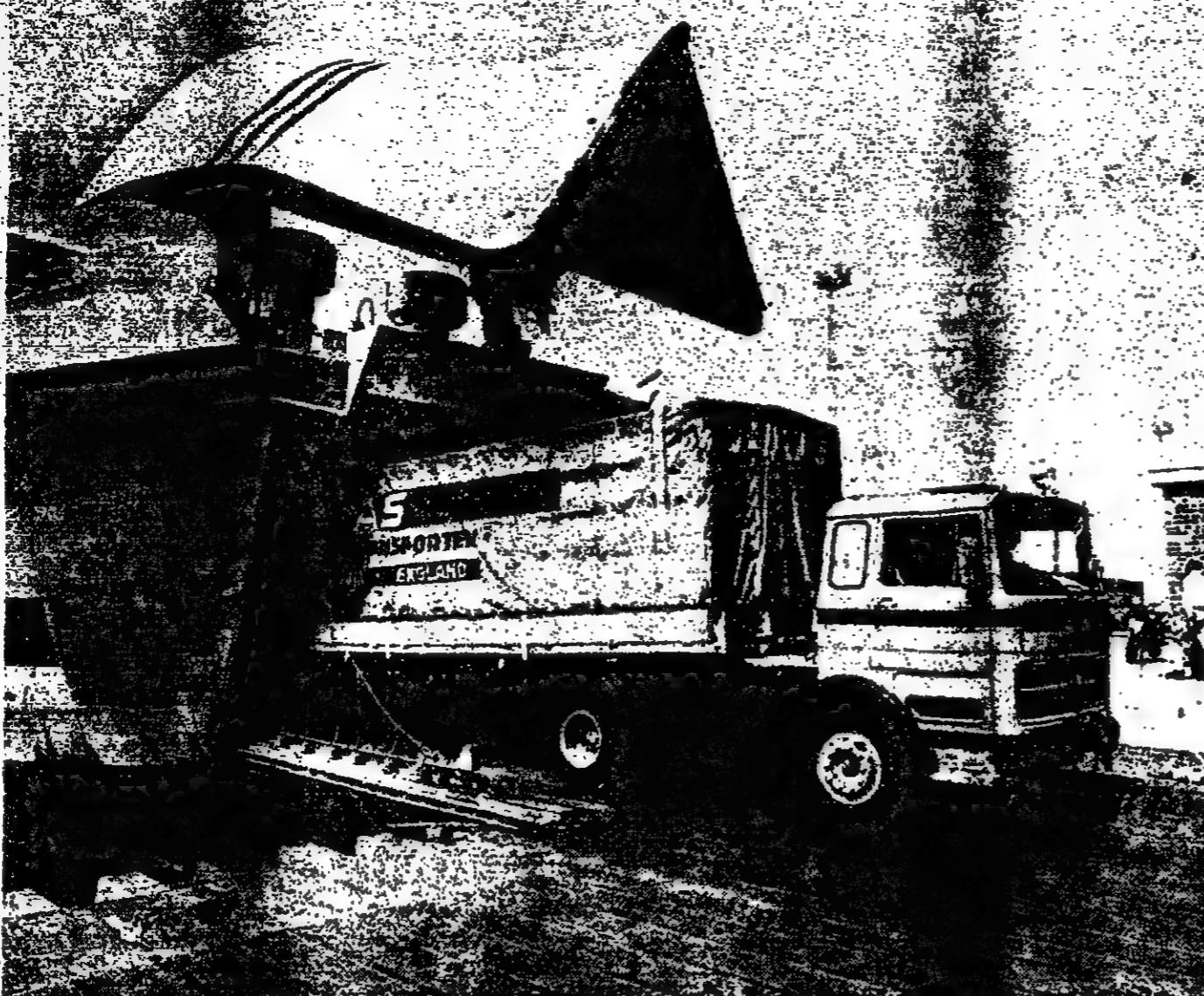
on the import and export, the range of commodities handled to make up the image is wide. Unlike ports whose tonnage may be boosted by oil, Felixstowe's pattern greater diversification from cereals, through machinery, vehicles, and down to the end handling of ammunition.

bulk of the cargo methods is divided between containerization and roll-on trucking services. A considerable area set aside for the landward marshalling dispersal of the The port even boasts drivers' hotel to accommodate the long-distance truck traffic.

Services operated by Felixstowe have, themselves, both in size and number of destinations. Well beyond the dreams of those who originally conceived first early dock, Felixstowe regularly America, the West Far East, Europe, Scandinavia, North Africa, Middle East.

The roll-on/roll-off service is possible to truck anywhere in the such destinations as Ben, Dunkirk, Zeebrugge, Rotterdam, and Oslo.

The "ro/ro" services offers; they are competitive with similar handling ports. Tanks are



The roll-on/roll-off terminal.

Passenger services are recent developments in Felixstowe's progress, and now operate to the Port of Zeebrugge and Gothenburg. It is confidently expected that this comparatively new service will expand considerably now that rail access from the rest of the country to Felixstowe has been much improved. The effect that such an influx of passengers will have on the Felixstowe economy has yet to be calculated.

Port development has meant not just the provision of hard storage space for container parks for lorries, and general warehousing, it has also entailed the build-up of tank capacity to store the liquid chemicals which the port now handles. The first storage tanks were, in fact, erected for the Admiralty in what was thought to be the first such installation in the country.

To-day, the increase in bulk liquid cargoes has meant that expansion of the storage tank capacity is always under review; the more particularly since Felixstowe is close to Rotterdam and other continental handling ports. Tanks are

erected by Felixstowe Tank Country as far afield as York, a subsidiary of shire, the North East, and Scotland. Thus another link in the Zeebrugge and Gothenburg. Rail freight played an important role in the building of Felixstowe has been forged.

the original dock and the rail. Allied to the port developments is the need for the running of the port is a port and on land belonging to the company in its own right, the company have been a number of independent commercial yards, and tracks, linking to developments, responsible for the thirteen-mile British Rail servicing of road vehicles and other essential services to Ipswich.

This enables the port to be served by rail goods and to use to the maximum the national freight.

Adjacent to the docks there is a liner service which links the small trading estate which is port with all parts of the mainly concerned with warehousing which is intended to cater for the port's trade. However, such is the nature of the port's trade that it is unlikely that associated industry, as opposed to warehousing, will grow up with it.

With the season for the traditional horticultural shows just sufficient facilities for the finished, there are many individuals in the small communities which is a pleasant place to which to help mould Felixstowe's future. Inevitably, the facilities available for the differing tastes of the town's young people suffer. Many would say that they have to travel to Ipswich for their entertainment, and that the entertainment provided for them there is still inadequate.

Organised youth clubs exist in most of the communities, concentrating their summer activities on camping and other holidays, and such things as canoe classes. Centrally co-ordinated these go some way to satisfying the complaints of the young.

Property

CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

icipate in bowls, in village character now basking in the green cricket, in rugby, and — glory of winning first prize for increasing — in sailing in a particular bloom or vegetable, excellent estuary and coastal waters around the town.

With the season for the traditional English country show just sufficient facilities for the finished, there are many individuals in the small communities which is a pleasant place to which to help mould Felixstowe's future.

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Quiet

The day tripper or longer term visitor to Felixstowe must be prepared for a holiday which is by the nature of the place quiet. There are some good restaurants, beach facilities for the children, and, as already mentioned, a reasonable level of evening entertainment. Of greater interest, perhaps, is the close proximity of the wild, Suffolk countryside to the north of the town, and the small villages which can be reached from Felixstowe by car.

In a town with a mixture of modern port activity, a long leisure and holiday tradition, and serving some function as a dormitory for the thriving industries of Ipswich, it is difficult to pin down the town's essential charm. Charm, however, it has, with a variety of old buildings, an air of quiet confidence, and a certain dignity. With its small population, one could not expect it to compete with other resorts of far greater size, or even inland towns which act as retail and marketing centres.

It has, though, two major advantages: the beauty of the surrounding countryside, much of which is protected, and the sea and estuary. With the growth of sailing and fishing, as the town gradually changes character, these natural amenities may turn out to be Felixstowe's greatest assets.

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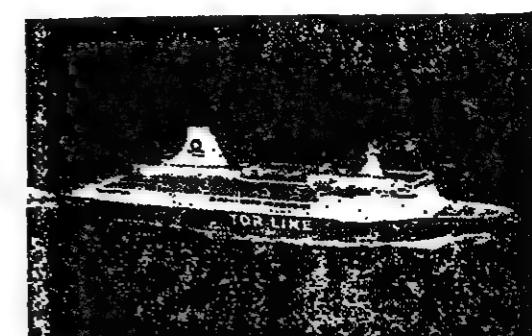
Firstly, there are the two leading hotels in Gothenburg. The Europa is near the busy centre of Sweden's second largest city. The Scandinavia is in a quieter position, overlooking the Gota river. You can get right away from city life to the Stadsbadet Varberg, with its 37 miles of beaches or go right into the heart of Sweden's mountains and forests to Boras and the Grand Hotel.

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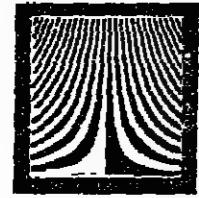
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The Technical Page

EDITED BY ARTHUR BENNETT AND TED SCHOETERS

SPACE TECHNOLOGY

Collecting energy from the sun

ALTHOUGH there has been a nearly constant for 24 hours a great deal of ribald comment day. The concept of a satellite solar power station (SSPS); first proposed in 1968, represented an extension of existing technology and was based on the successful start of the development of an effective space transportation system (this could be the Shuttle).

Speaking at the 26th Congress of the International Astronautical Federation in Lisbon this week, Dr Peter E. Glaser of Arthur D. Little, whose project it is pointed out that applications of solar energy are restricted by the day and night cycle and by weather and therefore will require suitable forms of energy storage.

Terrestrial solar-generated power on a substantial scale would be economical in only a few favourable geographical locations where capital intensive solar energy conversion systems could be used to best advantage. These earth-bound obstacles could be overcome when the solar energy conversion system is placed in synchronous orbit (22,300 miles up) around the earth where solar energy was

available located in direct line of sight on earth, where the microwave energy is efficiently transmitted and safely recovered.

SSPS has the potential for large-scale power generation, ranging from about 2,000 to 20,000 Megawatts. The lower output—2,000 Megawatts—is the smallest that can be effectively generated because of the necessary geometric relationships between the transmitting and receiving antennas. The upper limit—20,000 Megawatts—is fixed by capacity to radiate waste heat from microwave generators in space at an acceptable power-to-weight ratio.

Environmental effects of the SSPS and the associated space transportation system are projected to be within acceptable limits, particularly because all waste heat associated with solar energy conversion and microwave generation can be rejected to space, no other waste products are generated. The microwave beam densities can be designed to meet international standards, and the system can be made inherently safe.

The antenna directs the microwave beam to a receiving

To-morrow, if all goes well,

this satellite—Intelsat IV-A, first of a series of six

—will be launched from

Cape Kennedy to provide

Europe with many more

channels of communica-

tions with the U.S. British

Aircraft Corporation played

a major role in its develop-

ment with the provision of

spin structures, booster

adapters, despun compo-

nents and cable harnesses.

The satellite will go into a

synchronous orbit over the

equator in mid-Atlantic and

have some 6,000 telephone

circuits or 20 colour TV

channels. This is about 70

per cent more capacity

than current Intelsat IVs.

SOFTWARE

Automation of board design

RACAL-REDAC, after a number of scoops on the world market, has achieved an important UK success with the sale of software to EMI Electronics. EMI is using the Redac printed circuit board layout module in its new in-house computer aided design facility recently opened at Hayes.

This new CAD centre represents a large EMI investment following a search through CAD equipment and software industries. The final decision was accelerated when a major Ministry of Defence development Aristo plotting table.

By agreement between the Financial Times and the BBC, information from The Technical Page is available for use by the Corporation's External Services as source material for its overseas broadcasts.

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The Executive's World

EDITED BY JAMES ENSOR

William Dullforce reports from Stockholm on Electrolux's entry into the big league through take-overs

Tigers don't eat grass

"Tigers don't eat grass," says acquisition shanty bring it level. Electrolux chairman Hans with AEG. Its rating will also improve in the washing of the French market for both are so evident that the lack of He will be swallowing his machines and dishwashers, in electric and gas cookers and reaction from the continental selling some 375,000 units. The producers is surprising. All the more so in that the Martin Group has been ripe for a take-over for some time. Knocked off at present has no production in a field which promises to expand rapidly by the Italians, it has not quickly, as natural gas networks are built out over the continent, years and has been running at a loss until the last two years.

In 1974 Arthur Martin, the parent company, showed a profit of £1.7m. on a turnover of £7.1m., while total group profit was not more than £1.1m. The signs at the beginning of this year were that the group was heading for a loss with Arthur Martin took only 6.5 per cent. But as only 5 per cent of French homes own a dish-washer, the potential remains enormous.

Outlets

Moreover, Arthur Martin has continued to market refrigerators and freezers, buying them from outside producers and maintaining a respectable 8.9 per cent. of the market. Thomson-Houston are the leaders in this field but French domestic production is relatively weak and some two-thirds of both refrigerators and freezers sold in France are imported. Electrolux has a small share only, but the takeover of the Martin Group will give it access to some 12,000 outlets and solidly reinforce its competitive position against the other foreign suppliers. The value of the Martin sales net work for Electrolux vacuum cleaners is almost incidental, but obvious; Electrolux has had direct sales door to door in France, but will also be able to exploit the trade outlets.

The Martin Group (Arthur Martin in France, Nestor Martin in Belgium and Switzerland) has been bought by Philips and AEG has a stake in Zamussi. The Philips' strategy is the "fit" between Electrolux and the Italian company, which was in the black at the half-stage this year. The Martin Group is expected to raise its turnover by a further £10m. next year, consolidating its position on the Italian, Belgian and Swiss white goods markets and, in the medium future, opening up in Belgium and Sweden in West Germany. In cookers it is losing market at the end of the sixties and closed down its oven production in 1971. On the other hand, for second position with it has maintained a leading position Bosch, but the Martin dom on the cooker market in and the Martin Group and the It is also taking over a £2.4m.

France and Belgium, taking advantage to both in being able instance, just over 20 per cent, to market a "complete kitchen" which it is currently selling for more than about one-third of the gas cooker range is of particular interest for Electrolux, since it has been ripe for a take-over for some time. Knocked off at present has no production in a field which promises to expand rapidly by the Italians, it has not quickly, as natural gas networks are built out over the continent, years and has been running at a loss until the last two years.

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Mr. Hans Werthen, executive chairman of Electrolux: a strategy of avoiding the cut-price discount market, dominated by the Italians, by marketing the 'complete kitchen'

but the Nordic market and Britain still offered too small a base to secure the company.

The rebirth of absorption refrigerators, Electrolux's original invention, for use in caravans, gave a more than useful bonus, boasting the profit margin on the group's white goods production and putting it into the lead on the Continent for this specialised market. The sale of the American Electrolux company for £33m. in 1968, then provided the cash to start the big expansion.

Mr. Werthen's argument was that, to survive, Electrolux had to be as big as its main rivals and operate a comparably wide product range. The result has been an aggressive expansion of both marketing and production worldwide. Last year the group made just under 1.4m. refrigerators in the upper price bracket, which means that in sales income it was level with its competitors. A pre-tax profit of £51m. on an almost £600m. group turnover and an adjusted yield per share of £1.9 indicated that profitability was also being maintained. Under declining market conditions this year Mr. Werthen expects to keep the profit steady on increased sales of just over £600,000.

Digestion

Is Mr. Werthen's appetite for takeovers satisfied? Electrolux has started a joint venture in Iran, an film factory for refrigerators and vacuum cleaners, for which it is able to borrow locally. It is re-establishing its refrigerator factory in Australia and expanding its vacuum cleaner and typewriter factories in Brazil. Ideas are burgeoning but Electrolux almost certainly needs time for digestion. The group

bond loan. This would appear changes, but Mr. Werthen refrigerator surge. In 1968, just to be a very low price for a clearly believes that expansion after Mr. Werthen had taken group with good brand names, on the Continent should lead to over Electrolux had a loss of about S.Kr.2.7m. on its white product range complementary a raising of capital on the same about S.Kr.2.7m. on its white market, not only to improve the goods production, where turning utilised production capacity around and, above all, for a foot- offering scope for rationalisation and, also to avoid some of the stigma of a foreign company buying up local assets. The Swedes, conditioned by the emphasis on industrial democracy at home and aware of the "cheekiness" outsiders may see in the steady advance of a small country

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WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 1975

On the Ulster tightrope

THE PROVISIONAL IRA apparently considers that it has little option at the moment in maintaining the cease-fire in Northern Ireland. Speaking for the Government in the House of Lords yesterday, Lord Shepherd said "The cease-fire is broken or intend to break it." This is disingenuous. The Provos have certainly issued a formal statement proclaiming the end of the cease-fire, but they have made their intentions perfectly plain. It endangers its relationship with the other—but since the events to which it reacts are so often violent, there seems no other way.

Argument

Removing Mr. Rees from his present post would, therefore, make little difference. There may be room for argument about whether the Ulster Secretary has displayed the maximum finesse during his term of office but his general policy is the policy of the Government as a whole—and for all the disgruntled comments of Lord Hailsham yesterday it remains for the time being at least a bipartisan policy.

One fundamental tenet of this policy has always been that the Government should at all times keep the Opposition fully informed of its intentions in Northern Ireland. If Lord Hailsham felt it necessary to say in public yesterday that this unwritten rule was not being followed by the Labour Government in the same spirit as the Conservatives had followed then his point must be met. It has always been common ground that it would be irresponsible to withdraw from this troubled corner of the U.K. yet to stay there requires that the two major parties have the fullest confidence in one another's attitudes to Ireland.

A withdrawal would almost certainly precipitate a particularly bloody and vicious civil war, and there is no guarantee that the fighting would be contained within Irish borders. The only course is to soldier on. These measures, taken together, might amount to one turn of the screw by the Army in Ulster: what remains to be seen is whether there will be need for further tightening-up in response to further escalation from the other side.

Turn of the screw

The presence of these forces is apparently to be more strongly felt in Belfast, Londonderry, and parts of Tyrone and Armagh. There have been arrests ("a number of people are helping security forces with their inquiries"). Selective screening, and more vehicle checks, were to be expected. These measures, taken together, might amount to one turn of the screw by the Army in Ulster: what remains to be seen is whether there will be need for further tightening-up in response to further escalation from the other side.

The politics of productivity

THE LATEST attempt by the National Coal Board to enlist the help of the Mineworkers' Union in an attempt to improve the productivity of the coal industry is only one of a continuing series. It is nevertheless necessary. If coal is to remain competitive with oil after the latest miners' wage increase, there will have to be a reduction in production costs. If full advantage is to be taken of the fresh opportunities facing the coal mining industry in an era of much higher oil prices, higher investment must be allowed to result in higher output. Yet the fact is that there has been a widespread decline in productivity so far this year, even in the most heavily-mechanised mining areas, and many pits are losing money on a grand scale.

To some extent, as union leaders have suggested, this drop in productivity may be psychological. With the country in the middle of a recession and industrial as well as domestic consumption of coal well down, even a slight rise in pithead stocks may seem to suggest to the moderates that higher productivity and production are not needed, to the militants that they will tend only to increase stocks and reduce the bargaining strength of the union in future negotiations. All have suffered financially, to the extent that they have failed to earn a productivity bonus for two quarters of the year in successive.

No incentive

A more immediate cause of the failure to improve productivity as hoped, however, is the present form of the productivity bonus, which is paid (or not paid) across the board to all miners. The incentive element of payment by results is therefore almost entirely lacking. It was the aim of the Coal Board in last year's negotiations to provide this incentive by linking productivity bonuses to the test of how far opinion has moved back towards the each pit in relation to a target moderate.

Political ebbs and flows in Spain's tide of violence

From ROGER MATTHEWS, Madrid, September 23

THE CAPACITY FOR ruthlessness violence at either end against Basque detainees, while martial law lasting just over four months, is anxious to make a positive terrorism and the regime's reactions to terrorism of Spain's political spectrum again seems to be threat from Basque Nationalist organisations. The communiqué hours in which the defendants were denied for most of the most virulent assault, yet a catalyst in their one uniting in an equally difficult to make of their existence. As demand—that General Franco though no-one can be a party's leadership in Park must renounce power and that they see it as an immediate move to be made several of the 11 condemned towards a democracy. The death sentence are less just to deny them the right to exist in which this one simple the regime will seem to be bowed to international pressure. Portuguese, that "social fascism," the combination of the anti-terrorist law introduced less than a month ago for those people accused of killing police officers. In essence it differs little from the terms of the state of emergency imposed on the Basque provinces but with the important qualifications that it will operate for two years and that it applies to all. There is little to suggest that, like ETA, they are heavily Marxist oriented or want to separate entirely from the rest of the section which permits heavy

Both groups of extremists must be pleased at the turn of events. For them the options are simple—a dictatorship of the proletariat or virulent right-wing domination—with the common enemy a peaceful transition towards a form of democracy. As a result 12 policemen have been murdered this year. 11 people face the death penalty, many hundreds have been arrested, more civil liberties have been withdrawn or threatened, the voice of moderate opinion is almost stifled and the Press has been muzzled more fiercely, leaving the vast mass of Spaniards bemused, anxious and, as ever, powerless.

Demanding justice

From a coldly professional political point of view—the actions of the two main terrorist groups involved—ETA (Basque Homeland and Liberty) and FRAP (the Revolutionary Anti-Fascist Patriotic Front)—have been precisely tailored to meet what they see as the needs of the situation—that is, to provoke the regime and force it deeper into the cul-de-sac in which it now appears to be trapped. As the number of police killings has increased—selectively on the part of ETA, entirely at random on the part of FRAP—so the voices on the extreme Right demanding "justice" have risen to a crescendo.

But it is not just voices. During the three-month state of emergency in the Basque provinces of Gipuzcoa and Vizcaya, introduced on April 25, there were over 80 recorded cases of extreme right-wing attacks on the property or persons of people suspected of having Basque Nationalist sympathies.

Despite these machine gunnings, bombs and beatings, not one person was arrested and not one case brought. The "Guerrillas of Christ the King" were supposedly to blame, but Basques themselves believed that their ranks were heavily swelled by off-duty police.

Annesty International found that there was "irrefutable



Spanish Premier Luis Carrero Blanco was killed in this Madrid explosion: terrorism could be the factor that finally tips the scales in making it clear even to those basically loyal to General Franco that the threat to the nation is beyond the control of an 82-year-old man.

of Spain to form a sovereign punishment for those guilty of during this year's elections for Democrats, Socialists and others in company with the showing "sympathy" for terrorist groups, separatists or "trade union" organisations. With inflation still running at appeal to General Franco for over 17 per cent, employees' clemency. Such unity may be bound by law not to offer more brief but if does genuinely indicate the breadth of hostility expressed by the anti-terrorist law.

Given the extensive powers available to the police before staging strikes against the introduction of the anti-regime, and this militancy has terrorist law, it is not easy to accept that so much more was behind ETA. Should one or needed to combat the activities more of the three ETA members under sentence of death urban guerrillas. The principal illegal regime can expect still more to play an important role if democracy is ever attempted.

The negotiations were bound to be highly combative. Add to this a more inflamed political situation and it does not require a crystal ball to predict a deepening shopfloor challenge to the regime this autumn, especially with 600,000 workers issues are involved.

Certainly Government ministers, especially those involved with the suffering economy, are take kindly to perceiving effects that the current rumour suggesting political command this autumn could have. Additionally, these men who backed wholeheartedly the Spanish military, especially with 600,000 workers now without a job.

For the other illegal political parties in Spain which eventually aim to have a substantial following there is, perhaps, strike in late October. This appears to be testing the renowned discipline of members,

Nothing in common

Although it is always easy to recall that the Spanish Army has virtually nothing in common with its Portuguese counterpart, talk will reveal that neither is it passive and united as senior generals would like public believe. That thought necessary to see of the General Staff Lt. Col. Manuel Diaz Alvaro has been actively encouraged in his post by certain officers who are opposed to the court-martial of the family around General Franco.

Pr. Minister Arias has been actively encouraged in his post by certain officers who are opposed to the court-martial of the family around General Franco.

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ters, especially those involved with the suffering economy, are take kindly to perceiving effects that the current rumour suggesting political command this autumn could have. Additionally, these men who backed wholeheartedly the Spanish military, especially with 600,000 workers now without a job.

They as much as anyone, crucial issue facing the co-

ordination of the political game tips the scales.

MEN AND MATTERS

Cousins'**NEDO mission**

The meeting in early November of the National Economic Development Council will be an especially important affair with Chancellor Denis Healey and Energy Secretary Eric Varley due to present a paper on the identification of industrial growth areas. The exercise is bound to include considerations of manpower flexibility, which from about that time will be tackled nationally for the council's executive by John Cousins.

He is switching to the National

Economic Development Office

after 12 years as a full-time

official in the Transport and

General Workers' Union which

his father ran as general secre-

tary for 13 years until 1969, with

a break to be Minister of Tech-

nology. John Cousins, now 43,

looks and sounds a good deal

like the old boss, with a similar

liking for blunt, embracing

pronouncements.

The present outlook "frightens

me to death," says Cousins. "I'm

very fond of my country, which

used to be the most efficient in

the world. Now it's slipped back:

I want to try to stop that rot."

How far his new job of man-

power and industrial relations

director at NEDO will help him

do that is debatable. Cousins

sees himself, after a good deal

of jetting around the world for

the TGWU, getting deep into

shop-floor discussions in Bri-

tain's industrial heartland on

the need for changes in work-

ing practices and attitudes. He

will also set himself the mission

of explaining to rank and file

union people what NEDO is all

about.

Cousins himself started out

as an airline steward (serving

its image stays as brushed as

was one of the country's best-

known brands of tea, overaken

by the rise of to-day's more

familiar names. The market

for tea has risen in the common

councillors were sent to be dominated by a

TGWU to be a national secret on a one-day television tech-

niques course (costing £500) to Lyons and Brooke Bond) but the odd small business has survived the sorting-out.

To some extent, the City has acknowledged its subordination to the GLC already, it is only a second tier planning authority, and has to defer to the GLC for final decisions. Indeed,

Sons often face a difficult time if they follow the footstep of a famous father. With Jack Jones due to retire from the TGWU leadership in 1978, Cousins has been mentioned in the running to succeed, but pretty far back. He has obviously counted himself right out with his decision to move to NEDO, though even there, his father's shadow is just evident.

Frank Cousins was one of the six original union representatives on the NEDC in the early 60s.

Imagery

"We've opened the doors, by being as helpful as we can in answering inquiries. Effectively, we're showing 'the books.' Thus a City Corporation spokesman explained the gentlemanly way the counter-attack on the London Labour Party's proposal for a Greater London Council takeover is being handled.

The issue got an airing at the GLC yesterday with the Conservative opposition asking whether council officers had been involved in drawing up the report which castigated the City's undemocratic ways and urged that its running be handed over to a GLC committee. The answer was that the report had not been assisted into life by any of the GLC's employees.

The Corporation, stung by Labour strictures, has decided to make sure it does as much as possible. To this end, the town known brands of tea, overtaken by the rise of to-day's more familiar names. The market

for tea has risen in the common councillors were sent to be dominated by a

TGWU to be a national secret on a one-day television tech-

handful of companies (mostly



"Every time I try to find out how the pound finished I get a recording of 'Brother I'm

You Spare A Dime.'

Two for tea

Remember Mazawattee? Once it was one of the country's best-known brands of tea, overtaken by the rise of to-day's more familiar names. The market

for tea has risen in the common

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COMPANY NEWS + COMMENT

Shrinking margins hit United Newspapers

DESPITE A rise in turnover from £13.93m. to £17.05m., taxable profits of United Newspapers fell from £2.75m. to £1.82m. in the first half of 1975.

The interim dividend is lifted from 4.5p to 5p net. Last year's total was 10.6618p paid from taxable profits of £1.3m.

First half
1975

Turnover £17,050,190 13,935,800

Trading profit £1,825,000 2,248,000

Investment income £26,500 389,000

Taxation £97,700 1,428,000

Dividend 4.5p 10.6618p

Preference dividend 41,801 41,801

Available for Ord. 832,939 1,756,777

Interest divided 261,143 305,529

The chairman, Lord Barnetton, says that the downturn is attributable to cost inflation and shrinking margins. Advertising rates for most of their newspaper publications were raised during the first half, and this is reflected to some extent in the rise of over 13 per cent. in turnover. On the other hand, overall expenditure went up by around 20 per cent., with wages and newsprint as the most significant factors.

During the past few months, further steps have been taken to deal with the situation. The company's morning and evening newspapers have increased their cover prices and advertising rates, almost all of these changes coming into effect during the second half. There have also been recent increases of a similar nature for many of the weeklies.

Comment

United Newspapers' profits are a third lower pre-tax and the net share dividend down 70 to 20p yesterday. But the dividend total looks like going up again this year. For the six months, costs have jumped a fifth on average and advertising volume—taking in a decline of 17 per cent. in classified—is down by just over a tenth. This half-year, the evening papers will have increased by 100 per cent. Cover price rises and increases in advertising rates are being pushed through, so July-December profits may not fall far short of being maintained. That would imply a pre-tax total of around £4m., half of which would be enough to cover the 1975 dividend. And United still has very nearly £1m. in cash—10p a share—in its balance sheet.

Oyez up 5 1/4% at halftime

IN THE first half of 1975—a "most difficult trading period," Solicitors Law Stationery Society reports sales up by 23.3 per cent., to £6.86m. and an increase of 54 per cent. to £728,612 in pre-tax profit.

The chairman, Mr. R. A. Hodges, explains that the sales rise was partly due to inflation but also to an increased market share and expansion into Belgium. The disparity between the sales and profit increases reflects the rapidly rising costs that have had to be met.

Although forecasting is still difficult the chairman remains confident that assuming no further change in trading generally, continued slow but steady progress will be maintained.

Earnings per 20p share are stated to be up from 3.04p to 3.16p. The interim dividend is

INDEX TO COMPANY HIGHLIGHTS

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Bejam Group	21	1	Metalrax	23	3
Berwick Timps	23	5	Metre Town	20	5
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Brixton Estate	23	4	Pittard Group	22	5
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Hillards	21	3	Toye	21	3
Inflation Guard	23	2	United Newspapers	20	1

raised from 1.34p to 1.365p net. For 1974 a total of 3.4245p was paid from profits of £1.26m.

Firkin Hall 1975 1974

Turnover £6,521,265 5,961,218

Profit before tax £202,142 462,241

Taxation £202,738 361,023

Net profit £43,574 321,198

Minorities £8,974 12,196

Total profit £42,600 298,992

Interim dividend 146,962 126,577

Members are told that following the purchase of J. Frankfort last year the group has now further extended operations in Northern Europe. Mr. Hodges anticipates that the expanded company of Ovex Reprographics will make a positive contribution to profits in the second half.

The CES catchment group is already up 43 per cent., margins are up at 5.8 per cent., and the shares have outperformed the stores sector by a wide margin so far this year. At 78p, the rise from the year's low has been nearly fourfold, and the prospective yield is nearly 5.5 per cent.

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expanded company of Ovex Reprographics will make a positive

contribution to profits in the second half.

Statement, Page 24

IN THE 28 weeks to August 18, 1975, pre-tax profit of Combined English Stores Group rose 42 per cent. from £1m. to £1.22m.

Chairman Mr. M. Gordon states, "The Board looks forward with confidence to the conclusion of another successful year and a further stage in the development of the group."

The interim dividend is lifted from 1.10p to 1.25p net. The maximum permitted for 1975 is 1.75p.

The chairman declares that the group has made further substantial progress. The Harry Penton magazine chain and the Salisbury handbags and fashion accessories chain have achieved "considerable" increases in sales and profits. Plans for the expansion of these chains by the addition of new units and the re-fitting of existing ones are currently being implemented.

The group has maintained a high level of liquidity. It has the strength to take advantage of opportunities for expansion in the U.K. and the "good news" when they arise, he adds.

Half year Year
1975 1974
Sales £2,000 1,851 1,874.6
Profit before tax £24,218 17,732 18,933
Tax £21 10 10
Profit after tax £14 1,114 1,174
Dividends 10 114 124
From RP reserve 43 64 14
Ord. divs. 221 199 200
Nat. divs. 10 10 10
Nat. Reserves 10 10 10

Includes net profit on the disposal of properties amounting to £1,000.

Stockbrokers: D. Zoete and Sons have placed roughly 1m. Rank Organisation "A" ordinary shares at just over 137p.

The shares, which are thought to have been dispersed among various institutions, Rank "A" shares closed 10p lower last night at 140p, with the Ordinary 12p down at 135p.

Excluding cranes sales, Sparrow's first-half profits have risen by 52 per cent., and, considering the depressed state of the building sector—the group's largest single customer—this is no mean achievement. The greatest offsetting factor must have been the growth of the group's North Sea activities, but Sparrow services about 80 different industries in all and, building apart, the level of demand has been fairly high throughout with main emphasis well distributed in proportion of the load. The building sector is still showing little sign of any real improvement but with around 30 per cent. of its fleet fully utilized at the moment the group looks capable of maintaining its first-half profits growth and once again increasing the return on capital employed—in 1974 this rose from 25 per cent. to 30 per cent. The prospective yield at 115p is 6 per cent.

RANK PLACING

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The Financial Times Wednesday September 24 1975

Second half upturn lifts ejam to £1.6m.

E PROFITS of Bejam, the frozen food and deep-freezer concern, rose - from £1.22m. to £1.6m. in the year ended June after being some £30,000 in 1974/600,000 in the first six months.

See Lex

man Mr. J. D. Apthorpe said that the first half was due principally to continuing effects of the ty week, and the figures second half represent an of 32.3% per cent. in both frozen food and reached very satisfactory in the latter period and every indication that this will be maintained.

ave per 10 share are to be up from 5.3p to 7.5p. The net dividend is raised to 4p, with a final of this is the last year the y is free from dividend one, following the offer- in June, 1972.

dition a scrip issue of proposed, to registered October 11, 1976, for tax and taking out extraordinary dividends 600 (nil) the net balance 1.64m. compared with

book value of pig breeding buildings and equipment following the decision to cease these operations.

£20,000 less deferred tax released

after being some £30,000 in 1974/600,000 in the first six months.

First half advance at Manders

FIRST HALF 1975 taxable profits of Manders Holdings advanced from £506,000 to £586,000 before tax of £185,000 against £245,000.

The interim dividend is lifted from 0.49p to 0.64p net. Last year's total was 1.88p paid from taxable profits of £1.71m.

The U.K. paint and printing ink division (including royalties from overseas companies) contributed £683,000 (£914,000) to first half profits; the overseas printing ink division £175,000 (£174,000) and the property division £118,000.

The directors point out that

Toye sees similar end result

Manufacturers of civil and military regalia, Toye & Co. announces sales up from £1.27m. to £1.83m. for the first half of 1975, but a drop in profits from £251,000 to £69,225 subject to tax of £100,000.

The directors state that with an increasing emphasis on export, they expect that the loss areas will at least be at break even point by the end of year and they have no reason to suppose that the results for this year compared with 1974 will not be basically maintained.

Last year taxable profits reached £224,138. The dividend was 1.25p net.

and they do not expect any improvement during the current year.

From the information available, they expect business to improve in the second half of 1975, and therefore there is a real prospect of June 1974 not shown by the figures.

Demand for products at present is weak, with some at record levels and others declining and thus, together with the general uncertainty in the U.K. and Australia, makes a realistic forecast of profits difficult.

Whereas profits may well show

improvement in the short term, in line with general busi-

ness conditions, we are poised ready to take advantage of improved conditions as soon as

they begin to occur," members

of the group say.

comment

Equity and Law Assurance Society has launched its Protector Fund linked to the Government's Earnings Index inflation-proof contract.

The investor makes a lump sum payment of £1,023 at outset, which is used to buy a temporary annuity, under which the net monthly instalments are sufficient to meet the £30 monthly contributions to the S.A.Y.E. contract.

This enables investors to use capital in buying what is a regular savings scheme.

In the event of death of the investor during the five-year period the monthly payments would stop but the Society would pay to his estate the difference between the original investment and the total of the gross instalments already paid. However, the investors is locked into the bond once he takes it out: Equity and Law does not pay a cash-in sum on the bond.

The group continues to add to its surplus cash and the current market value of its investments is £5m. However, the directors still do not feel the time is right to commit these funds.

Despite all the problems, they declare there is a reasonable chance of Toye achieving higher profits in the current year.

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AMALGAMATED TIN MINES OF NIGERIA (HOLDINGS) LIMITED

INCREASE IN NET PROCEEDS OFFSET BY HIGHER OPERATING COSTS

The 36th Annual General Meeting of Amalgamated Tin Mines of Nigeria (Holdings) Limited will be held on 16th October, 1975, at 55-61 Moorgate, EC2R 325 declared in respect of the year ended 31st March, 1974.

The following is the statement it is satisfactory that all these amounts were received during the year under review, thus enabling your Board to declare a further dividend of 10% for the year ended 31st March, 1974. This was paid on 26th November last and brought the total distribution for the year up to £0.7775.

Before commenting on the results for the year I should like to take this opportunity to refer to the retirement of Sir Douglas Waring as Chairman of the Company at the Annual General Meeting held in October last year. Sir Douglas was appointed a Director in 1958 and became Chairman in 1961. We have good reason to be grateful for the close attention he gave to the Company's affairs and for his guidance over a long period. Upon his retirement I had the honour to be appointed as Chairman by the remaining Directors and on 24th October, 1974 Sir Andrew Crichton joined the Board to fill the vacancy created by Sir Douglas's retirement.

RESULTS

Production of tin concentrate for the year ended 31st March, 1975 amounted to 2,502 tonnes, 540 tonnes less than the total for the previous year. However, the average price of tin metal applicable to our sales was £37.32 per tonne for the year against £2.321, resulting in an increase in net proceeds of the sale of concentrate after deduction of Government royalty payments. This was more than offset by a substantial increase of approximately £707,000 in mining costs, so that the profit for the year of £1,304,827 before taxation was £448,000 lower than that of the previous year.

The main factors leading to the increase in mining costs were higher fuel and power charges, coupled with the considerable increase in wages which it became necessary to award early in 1975 in implementation of the recommendations resulting from the report of the Uduji Public Service Review Commission. The higher costs when expressed in sterling are, however, augmented by the further weakening of the pound against the Naira between the 1974 and 1975 years-end.

The total production of columbite for the year obtained almost entirely as a by-product of tin mining operations was 182 tonnes, but owing to an improved market for this material the opportunity was taken to dispose of stocks carried forward and sales totalled 300 tonnes of concentrate against 127 for the previous year.

CAPITAL EXPENDITURE

Expenditure on fixed assets during the year amounted to £37.32. Of this some £219,000 represents part of the total purchase price of two bucket wheel excavators and conveyor equipment. At 31st March, 1975 a further £520,000 remained to be paid for this equipment in completion of the contract.

The first bucket wheel excavator has successfully undergone field trials on site, but shipment of the second machine has been delayed for some considerable time owing to problems arising from the port congestion at Lagos. It is now hoped that this second excavator, along with the conveyor system, will be shipped by the end of October and that all the equipment will be fully operational early in 1976.

The building of a new headquarters office at Bakum represented a further item of capital expenditure of some £91,000 incurred during the year. This has now been occupied and replaces the old office at Rayfield which had been in use since long before the Second World War. The new office is more suitably situated in relation to the Company's operations and will enable as much as is practicable of the administrative, secretarial and accounting work to be centralised under the one roof as part of the programme of streamlining management which was set in train several years ago.

BUOYANT NIGERIAN ECONOMY

The change in Government last July, when General Gowon succeeded as Head of State by Brigadier Murtala Mohammed, did not cause any interference to the Company's operations. So far we have received no proposals from the Government

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ALL ARREARS OF DIVIDENDS RECEIVED

At the time of the preparation of the Chairman's Statement last year we had still not received from Nigeria the sum of £311,888 representing arrears of dividends declared by the sub-

committee for the year ended 31st March, 1974.

In conclusion, I would like to mention the excellent working relationship that continues to exist between the expatriate and indigenous members of the staff on the mine and to extend to all employees of the organisation in Nigeria and the United Kingdom the appreciation of the Board for their efforts during the year under review.

The new shares do not rank for

formal offer documents will be sent as soon as possible.

NALIN WILLIAMSON

Shareholders of Nairn Williamson have been sent letters recapping the events which led to the Unilever offer for the company and the various announcements subsequently issued by both parties.

The letter confirms that following the acquisition of 51.4 per cent of the Ordinary of Nairn Williamson by Unilever, the formal offer for the balance not already owned will be unconditional.

Formal offer documents will be sent as soon as possible.

NOLTON ESTATES

Under terms of the agreement for the acquisition of Anthony Mack by Nolton Estates, £15,000 has become due to the vendors, who have exercised their option to take shares rather than cash and 34,531 Ordinary shares of Nolton have been issued.

The new shares do not rank for

formal offer documents will be sent as soon as possible.

FURNITURE MERGER

Stag Furniture Holdings' offer for Yatton Furniture not already owned has received acceptances totalling about 90.1 per cent of the Ordinary. It is Stag's intention to exercise the powers of compulsory acquisition.

The new shares do not rank for

formal offer documents will be sent as soon as possible.

BIDS AND DEALS

Pearl talks with

New London

SHARES of New London Properties, in which the big Pearl Assurance holds a 48.79 per cent stake, have risen 50% to a new 1975 peak of 215p yesterday on news that talks were on which might lead to a cash bid from Pearl for the rest of the shares.

At this price level, which compares with the year's low of 90p, the equity of New London whose interests include the Queens Ice Skating Club—should have a value of £2.6m.

The relationship between Pearl, one of Britain's largest life insurance groups, and New London is already close, and all the signs are that both the Boards favour the take-over in principle, subject to agreement on price.

An up-to-date valuation of New London's assets is now being carried out, and will clearly be a material factor in negotiations on the proposed deal.

Lamino, which manufactures

laminated and toughened glass for customers in 50 countries, now draws its supplies of raw glass from Pilkington in the UK, and all production has been sold to Pilkington's £3m float glass plant in Sweden.

The directors point out that its

surpluses on those properties where the value is above book

The balance sheet total of properties held by investment companies at March 31 was £209.3m.

earlier and shareholders' funds

totalled £102.5m, £104.9m.

The directors feel that the

property market at March 31

has been reflected in such

a degree that it is reasonable to determine a meaningful value for the investment properties which are based mainly on 1973 valuations.

Although they consider that

current such values

could be significantly less than

book value, in view of the fact

that the properties are held mainly

for the long term they do not

consider that any adjustment of

value is warranted until a more

stable market is established.

Since the year end the group has sold a significant

section of the property portfolio

totalling a further £15.3m. These

sales show a shortfall on book

value of some 20 per cent.

Revenues receivable

£10,767,192.74

Less坏账

1,312,711

Net credit

8,454,481

Less坏账

574,465

Net receivable

8,880,016

Dividends

128,100

Net asset value per 250 share

at August 31 was 75.4p (80.4p at

May 31), including premium of

18.5p (24.4p) per share. Of the

investments 44.77 per cent (39.3

per cent) are in the UK and

22.23 per cent in North America.

The directors explain that earnings were reduced by the incidence of dividend payment dates, and half-year earnings are expected to be comparable with those for the first half of 1975, net of tax credits.

For the year to May 1975, net earnings were £151,046 and the

dividends totalled £1,000.

Even so, given the

considerable cash holding,

it is felt that the group can

afford to pay a dividend of 25p per share.

Borrowings at March 31 had increased by about £17m, to £124m.

While capital commitments had been reduced from £44.5m to just under £10m, the group has substantially reduced its current development programme and the majority of schemes in course of construction are due for completion in 1976.

The Board will continue to review the portfolio and, if appropriate, realise assets in order to reduce the level of short-term borrowings.

The group is pursuing a vigorous policy of marketing its completed developments.

AIP loss after £3.3m writedown: no final

AFTER WRITING down the value of certain properties held in trading subsidiaries by £2.2m, Amalgamated Investment and Property reports a pre-tax loss of £1.3m, compared with a profit of £3.76m for 1973-74. The loss per 25p share is stated at 1.25p, there is no final dividend, so the interim of 0.25p already paid compares with a total of 1.25p for the previous year.

The directors point out that it is in accordance with accounting principles that adjustments have been made to take into account surpluses on those properties where the value is above book.

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Interim Statement*Chairman Murray Gordon reports*

The Group has made further substantial progress. It has maintained a high level of liquidity and has the strength to take advantage of opportunities for expansion in the UK and the EEC as and when they arise.

The Board looks forward with confidence to the completion of another successful year.

The directors have declared an interim dividend for the year ending 31 January 1976 of 1.25p net (1974/75 1.1306p net) payable on 21 November 1975 to shareholders on the register on 17 October 1975. The directors intend to recommend the maximum final dividend allowed under Government regulations.

COMBINED ENGLISH STORES GROUP LIMITED

	Half year to 16/8/75 (28 weeks)	Half year to 3/8/74 (27 weeks)	Full year to 1/2/75 (53 weeks)
Sales excluding VAT	£000	£000	£000
	24,226	17,732	45,295
Profit before tax			
Taxation - estimated	1,425	1,002	3,505
	741	521	1,802
Profit after tax			
Extraordinary items after estimated taxation relief	684	481	1,703
	(19)	(116)	(494)
	665	365	1,209
Appropriation:			
Transfer from hire purchase profit reserve	(45)	(56)	(120)
Dividends			
Preference	8	8	16
Ordinary	221	199	436
	184	151	332
Balance	481	214	877

Multiple specialist retailers operating over 500 shops in the U.K. and Belgium. Sainsbury/Harry Fenton/Youngsters/Posner Herald

MINING NEWS

Impala is not yet out of the wood

BY KENNETH MARSTON

THE MARKET for platinum now appears to be approaching a Zambia's Nehunga Consolidated, to June and the dividend is cut of the cut-backs that have been made in production says Mr. Ian Straits, "are in serious straits," says Mr. J. de Beer, chairman of the Unilever Corporation group's Impala Investments. He adds that it remains to be seen whether the second-half slump in the demand for zinc. Yesterday the shares were unchanged at 240p.

He adds, however, that unless the U.S. and European economies become firmly re-established it is unlikely that there will be any marked resurgence in demand for platinum in the next six months.

Mr. de Beer says that "we have a long-term confidence" in view of the basic importance of copper. But there will have to be a strong revival in metal prices followed by a period of modest levels" despite the fact that the International Tin Council's export controls are not far from supporting the company from selling all its production, the chairman, Mr. D. R. Mitchell, says.

Meanwhile, hopes of any early distribution from the company's funds in Zambia have been damped by that country's recent tightening of exchange controls. ZCI fell 4p to a year low of 33p yesterday.

Regarding the important costs of the outlook for the current year is concerned, it looks as though Impala's earnings should be helped by the Rand devaluation but they are still likely to be down on those of the previous year.

However, it appears possible that the dividend may be increased from the sharply reduced 1974/75 level of 45 cents if platinum sales picture brighten, especially in view of this year's much lower capital expenditure. A 21.5% per cent stake in Impala is held by Bishopsgate Platinum, the shares of which were up down at 80p yesterday.

The prime aim at the latter is to clarify the potential of the deeper copper lode offset to the south with an upper limit of about 350 metres (1,148 feet) below surface. Assuming continuity between drills the two main lodes are estimated to have a potential of around 18.5m tonnes averaging 3.39 per cent copper.

Other lodes, it stated, could contribute some 2m tonnes of a lower grade. Preliminary feasibility studies have begun. ZCI management are escalation in capital costs to a 4.5 per cent interest rate, the uncertain economic outlook.

At present, "resource potential" to 400 metres (1,312 feet) is put at about 18m tonnes of 2.4 per cent lead, 8.4 per cent zinc and 150 grammes silver per tonne.

The deposit extends below 500 metres (1,640 feet). Metallurgical tests and preliminary feasibility studies are proceeding to help finance the already announced purchases of shares in

AMAL TIN OF NIGERIA

IN THE ANNUAL REPORT Africa's Blyvooruitzicht go in the Barlow Hand chairman, Mr. A. C. Petersen, ventures the opinion that back in the build-up preceding the recent IMF proposal be at most a temporary.

Providing that the deal short duration, and if it is that substantial additional will flow from uranium as 1978 onwards is justified.

Petersen reckons that present level of dividends for 1974/75 should remain stable for the foreseeable future.

The chairman admits that the impact on working costs and labour proposed five days earlier cannot yet be accurately assessed. Looking further ahead, he says that as mining spreads to lower mill grade must be expected.

For 1976/77 is estimated at 15.5 tonnes against 14.5 tonnes with about an 8 per cent fall in each of the following years.

Another important to Blyvooruitzicht's distribution is the continued heavy expenditure put at R12.5m in current year and much for 1976/77. But it is halved for the following year. Yesterday, Blyvooruitzicht jumped 60p to 62.5p in the general market trend.

ROUND-UP

Aluminium output drop

INTERNATIONAL PI ALUMINIUM INSTITUTE members produced 70.00 million tonnes of primary aluminium in August 1976. In July 1975/600 million tonnes against 78.000 in July 1975/600 million tonnes against 78.000 in July 1975.

The institute covers many aluminium producers except for eastern Europe, Yugoslavia, the US and China.

Total IPAI production first eight months of 1976 was 6,554,000 tonnes, against 6,554,000 tonnes for the same period in 1975.

Reuter.

HARD TIMES FOR ZAMBIAN COPPER

Against the background of rising costs, low copper prices

Blyvooruitzicht Gold Mining Company, Limited

(Incorporated in the Republic of South Africa)

The following is from the Statement by the Chairman, Mr. A. C. Petersen.

During most of the year under review, underground production was adversely affected by a shortage of Black labour. The average underground strength dropped from 9,000 in the previous year to 7,618, a decrease of 1,412 Black employees. Nevertheless, the mine increased its milled tonnage slightly from 1,578,000 in 1974 to 1,606,000 in 1975. This increase was assisted by a reduction in waste sorted from 286,000 tons in the previous year to 117,000 in the year under review. Included for the first time were the washings from the newly erected waste washing plant at No. 3 shaft. Approximately 100 kilograms of gold were recovered from 52,000 tons treated at this plant.

The yield at 14.40 grams per ton, decreased by 13 per cent when compared with the previous year's yield and gold produced fell from 30,679.8 to 27,467.4 kilograms. However, a 25 per cent rise in the average price received for gold resulted in an increase in the gold working profit from R84.1 million to R87.1 million despite a 19 per cent rise in working expenditure per ton milled. The average price of gold received by the company during the financial year was as follows:

	Approximate R per kg	\$ per oz.
1st Quarter	2,956	128
2nd Quarter	4,228	184
3rd Quarter	3,635	158
4th Quarter	3,635	158
Weighted average for full year	3,604	157

Working expenditure rose by R2.66 to R16.71 per ton milled during the year under review. Of this increase in overall costs of 19 per cent, Black labour costs accounted for 59 per cent. White labour costs for 9 per cent and stores, materials and other costs for 32 per cent. The increase in stores, materials and other costs of 13 per cent over the previous year is probably a measure of the general rate of inflation. The very large increase in Black labour costs was the result of the concerted effort of the industry to bring Black wages to a more realistic level and to attract more local labour to the mines.

Uranium

Uranium contributed a profit of R636,000 compared with R688,000 for the previous year. Profit from this source will be very small during the coming year as the bulk of the mine's production will be utilized in repaying uranium borrowed in the past.

The demand for uranium has increased and prices have improved significantly over the last year. These developments are undoubtedly due to the world energy crisis and the resulting uncertainty about future fuel supplies. Advantage was taken of this situation to negotiate moderate price increases in respect of the major proportion of BLYVOORUITZICHT's existing contracts. These price increases will ensure that the respective contracts will all be profitable.

In view of the favourable market developments a decision has been made to increase BLYVOORUITZICHT's uranium production capacity. The additional uranium will be derived from the treatment of previously untreated gold plant tailings from the Nos. 1 and 6 slime dams.

Income statement

Total working profit rose by R3,078,000 to R67,736,000 which, together with other income (net), brought the total profit before taxation to R70,462,000. Taxation and State's share of profits increased by 3 per cent, or R1,118,000 and absorbed R38,668,000, leaving a profit after taxation of R30,854,000, which was R3,252,000 higher than the previous year. An amount of R3,000 was added in respect of forfeited dividends making a total amount of R30,857,000 available for appropriation.

Net expenditure on mining assets (including increase in stores and materials balanced)

Trust

It comes naturally
when you do business with WestLB

Before choosing your international banking partner there are some very serious questions you have to ask yourself. One concerns trust. "Can I have complete confidence in the reliability, security and solidity of my international bank?"

WestLB can give an unusually reassuring answer to that one. First and foremost, in times of general unease, it's good to know that WestLB has full government backing. It's the State of North Rhine Westphalia where the Bank is incorporated under public law.

With Germany's most heavily populated state (in which the Ruhr and surrounding areas provide up to 30 per cent of total German industrial production) as guarantor, basic trust comes naturally.

This Region provides the backdrop for WestLB's own impressive development. It has helped the Bank to become one of the largest in Europe. And to rank among the top twenty in the world.

WestLB's balance sheet total exceeds DM 50,000 million and when administered and trust funds and contingent liabilities are added, the grand total reaches more than DM 80,000 million.

But figures tell only half the story. As a universal and international bank offering the full range of commercial and investment banking services, WestLB has a solid foundation upon which the risks of doing business in a volatile world economic situation are broadly spread.

WestLB

Westdeutsche Landesbank Girozentrale
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John Gollop

INTERNATIONAL COMPANY NEWS + EURO MARKETS

IAC profit prospects decidedly bleak

JAMES FORTH

IAC HILL PROPRIETARY, the company's largest industrial concern, and only steel producer, is facing local and overseas bankers to raise its steel prices.

The funds are needed to cover greater working requirements in the face of increased costs and to ensure a liquid position.

Plans, which were revealed at the company's annual meeting held in Melbourne, have not been earmarked for this project but would be IAC's continuing capital structure programme, which is under review. IAC is currently involved in a \$450m. extension of its Newcastle steel plant in NSW, and recently reached a go-ahead for a iron ore mine at Deyton, Western Australia.

With the need for greater the chairman, Sir Ian Ian, warned that steel in Australia was run between 20 and 30 per cent, than a year earlier and there was a significant by the end of 1975 that could be forced to cut workers. Sir Ian said that prospects were being prepared by rising domestic products and sales by world producers at "depressed"

aid profit prospects for were decidedly bleak. "So the local market for steel is concerned we can see indication of an early up-

turn in ordering rates. The construction industry is very depressed and demand of steel for motor cars and consumer goods is low.

"We have now had three months of the 1975-76 year and there seems little doubt it will be a difficult period with returns from our steel industry section greatly reduced and with results for our mineral activities less than last year. We are doing all we can to contain costs and improve efficiencies, but it appears 1975-76 will produce most unsatisfactory results," Sir Ian said.

He revealed that the company was currently holding discussions with the Prices Justification Tribunal in an attempt to recover cost increases incurred during the start of the year. The size of the increase sought was not disclosed.

Asked why margins on steel had been allowed to fall, Sir Ian said prices had reached the stage where they were difficult to increase because of competition. Any further rises would open the way for Japanese exporters to compete on the Australian market in certain products.

He said the recent Government decision on a new oil pricing policy (BHP and its partner Esso) set only a slight increase over the next three years for their Basra Strait oil) would give some incentive to exploration but fell short of needs of existing oil producers.

Sir Ian also described the market as "decidedly bleak" for steel. "So the local market for steel is concerned we can see indication of an early up-

SYDNEY, Sept. 23.

1975-76 federal budget as disappointing because it failed to produce positive measures to combat inflation and effective incentives to stimulate investment.

Other major points to arise from the meeting were: BHP is holding discussions with the Papua New Guinea Government for a possible stake in the giant OK Tedi copper deposit recently abandoned by Kennecott Copper of the U.S. BHP is likely to be appointed manager of the \$400m. project with a minority equity interest. Other parties are likely to take an interest.

BHP is likely to go ahead with a rolling mill at Jeddah in Saudi Arabia to produce merchant and reinforcing bars for local consumption. Feed for the mill will come from a proposed Government steel plant on the east coast of Saudi Arabia, or else from local mills.

BHP is likely to take a 50 per cent. equity in the project. Another feasibility study is set to be completed in late November. Any further rises would open the way for Japanese exporters to compete on the Australian market in certain products.

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Scor passes interim dividend

JAMES FORTH

the Australian industrial unit offshoot of Bowater U.K. incurred a loss of \$6.1m. in the June half year, up six per cent. for the same six months in 1974 but continues the second half of 1974 deficit of \$A767,000 was reduced to \$A76,000. No dividend will be paid, but an interim of 5 cents will be paid and a final of the

trade creditor has also been reduced in line. The Board also said that the transport subsidiary, Freightliner Industries, continued to be a serious problem and recorded a substantial loss, but that the loss rate was slower in the December 1974 half. Bowater recently called off an agreement which gave the Australian Industry Development Corporation the right to AIDC.

In effort to improve the Esco is reducing term borrowings and has arrangements to borrow from Bowater Co. U.K. to refinance borrowings from the "local" parent, Australia Pty. Ltd. The will be for five years at an interest rate of 11.5 per cent.

Arrangements have also made to sell the 75 per cent holding in Buchman Industrial, Canada, for a book value of \$A24,000 which cancels book loss of \$A250,000 on sale of a subsidiary, "Sashions Pty.

It was the immediate move to strengthen the dated balance sheet. The terms will have been more conservatively funded and solidly managed by companies," they said. This year, Esco changed its executive directors said that stocks on reduced from \$A33.5m. to \$35m. and debts and

the latest improvement stems almost entirely from the group's local operations and maintains the group's unbroken string of record profits. The overseas subsidiaries only managed to shake off their loss-making tendencies in the last quarter of the year.

The situation has swung round dramatically in the first quarter of the current year. Local freight tonnages—land, sea or air transport—have dropped by up to 30 per cent, resulting in lower down payments at profit levels than the first quarter last year, despite higher revenue because of inflation. The latest profit return is 16.5 per cent.

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Record profit at TNT

BY JAMES FORTH

THOMAS Nationwide Transport, Australia's largest transport group, boosted profit 29.2 per cent from \$A6.5m. to a record \$A8.5m. in the year to June 30, and is expecting profits to maintain the result in 1975-76.

The latest improvement stems almost entirely from the group's local operations and maintains the group's unbroken string of record profits. The overseas subsidiaries only managed to shake off their loss-making tendencies in the last quarter of the year.

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Scor passes interim dividend

MICHAEL VAN DER

COMMISSION which has ways of rationalising state-owned national investment bank has agreed to restructure Van der Grinten, which had sales totalling Fls 247m. last year. It is Holland's second largest shipbuilding company after RSV.

Earlier, RSV Management Board Member Mr. J. Van Der Grinten said in Rotterdam that a certain amount of phasing out of the capacity for building new ships at the group would have to be carried out. In the current difficult situation, the Government would have to support the shipbuilding industry with additional credit facilities.

Mr. Van Der Grinten also urged that Dutch shipping companies should order with Dutch yards as much as possible. The latter should, against the background of fierce cut-throat international competition, notably from the Japanese, accept some orders for the time being with reduced margins or even losses. "At RSV we are prepared to do this as far as the price is concerned if this remains within reasonable

proportions," the RSV management board member said.

The establishment of a large new stevedoring company, called Multiterminal Rotterdam, has been announced by the Dutch companies Pakhoed and SIV.

The two partners will each have a 50 per cent stake in the new company in which the stevedoring activities of Pakhoed Rotterdam and Unifacentre will be concentrated.

A statement from Pakhoed in Rotterdam today said that the company's present cargo handling capacity was about 4m. tons a year. This was expected to be raised to 5.5m. tons in 1977 in which year about 300,000 containers could be handled.

Pakhoed Rotterdam's shipping and agency activities will be confined under the name Pakship, whereas the forwarding department will operate under the name Pakhoed-Rotterdam.

SELECTED EURODOLLAR BOND PRICES MID-DAY INDICATIONS

	MM	Offer	MM	Offer
STRAIGHTS				
Amer. Pipe 1980	97		98	
Amer. Pipe 1981	98		99	
APCO 1980	98		99	
Borregaard Pipe 1980	98		99	
Carder Pipe 1987	92		93	
Carter Pipe 1980	92		93	
Conoco Pipe 1980	92		93	
Cutter Hammer Pipe 1987	96		97	
EIB Pipe 1985	96		97	
Esa Pipe 1980 Nov.	96		97	
General Cable Pipe 1987	96		97	
Hannover-Aeropipe Pipe 1980	96		97	
ICI Pipe 1980	96		97	
ICI Pipe 1982	96		97	
Mar. Grindlays Pipe 1987	92		93	
Pacific Light Pipe 1980	92		93	
Prov. Quebec Pipe 1980	92		93	
Quebec Pipe 1980	92		93	
Scania Pipe 1980	92		93	
Shell Pipe 1980	92		93	
Staud. Oil Ind. Pipe 1980	92		93	
Tenneco Pipe 1980	92		93	
TRW Pipe 1980	92		93	
Volvo Pipe 1982	92		93	
NOTES				
Amer. Pipe 1982	98		99	
Amer. Pipe 1983	98		99	
Cit. Corp. Pipe 1982	98		99	
Cit. Corp. Pipe 1983	98		99	
Cit. Corp. Pipe 1984	98		99	
Cit. Corp. Pipe 1985	98		99	
Cit. Corp. Pipe 1986	98		99	
Cit. Corp. Pipe 1987	98		99	
Cit. Corp. Pipe 1988	98		99	
Cit. Corp. Pipe 1989	98		99	
Cit. Corp. Pipe 1990	98		99	
Cit. Corp. Pipe 1991	98		99	
Cit. Corp. Pipe 1992	98		99	
Cit. Corp. Pipe 1993	98		99	
Cit. Corp. Pipe 1994	98		99	
Cit. Corp. Pipe 1995	98		99	
Cit. Corp. Pipe 1996	98		99	
Cit. Corp. Pipe 1997	98		99	
Cit. Corp. Pipe 1998	98		99	
Cit. Corp. Pipe 1999	98		99	
Cit. Corp. Pipe 2000	98		99	
Cit. Corp. Pipe 2001	98		99	
Cit. Corp. Pipe 2002	98		99	
Cit. Corp. Pipe 2003	98		99	
Cit. Corp. Pipe 2004	98		99	
Cit. Corp. Pipe 2005	98		99	
Cit. Corp. Pipe 2006	98		99	
Cit. Corp. Pipe 2007	98		99	
Cit. Corp. Pipe 2008	98		99	
Cit. Corp. Pipe 2009	98		99	
Cit. Corp. Pipe 2010	98		99	
Cit. Corp. Pipe 2011	98		99	
Cit. Corp. Pipe 2012	98		99	
Cit. Corp. Pipe 2013	98		99	
Cit. Corp. Pipe 2014	98		99	
Cit. Corp. Pipe 2015	98		99	
Cit. Corp. Pipe 2016	98		99	
Cit. Corp. Pipe 2017	98		99	
Cit. Corp. Pipe 2018	98		99	
Cit. Corp. Pipe 2019	98		99	
Cit. Corp. Pipe 2020	98		99	
Cit. Corp. Pipe 2021	98		99	
Cit. Corp. Pipe 2022	98		99	
Cit. Corp. Pipe 2023	98		99	
Cit. Corp. Pipe 2024	98		99	
Cit. Corp. Pipe 2025	98		99	
Cit. Corp. Pipe 2026	98		99	
Cit. Corp. Pipe 2027	98		99	
Cit. Corp. Pipe 2028	98		99	
Cit. Corp. Pipe 2029	98		99	
Cit. Corp. Pipe 2030	98		99	
Cit. Corp. Pipe 2031	98		99	
Cit. Corp. Pipe 2032	98		99	
Cit. Corp. Pipe 2033	98		99	
Cit. Corp. Pipe 2034	98		99	
Cit. Corp. Pipe 2035	98		99	
Cit. Corp. Pipe 2036	98		99	
Cit. Corp. Pipe 2037	98		99	
Cit. Corp. Pipe 2038	98		99	
Cit. Corp. Pipe 2039	98		99	
Cit. Corp. Pipe 2040	98		99	
Cit. Corp. Pipe 2041	98		99	
Cit. Corp. Pipe 2042	98		99	
Cit. Corp. Pipe 2043	98		99	
Cit. Corp. Pipe 2044	98		99	
Cit. Corp. Pipe 2045	98		99	
Cit. Corp. Pipe 2046	98		99	
Cit. Corp. Pipe 2047	98		99	
Cit. Corp. Pipe 2048	98		99	
Cit. Corp. Pipe 2049	98		99	
Cit. Corp. Pipe 2050	98		99	
Cit. Corp. Pipe 2051</				

APPOINTMENTS

Changes at Quality Cleaners

After its acquisition by will, however, continue to be responsible for the pension fund of the company. Mr. Bryson was appointed to the Board of Quality Cleaners has been reconstituted. Mr. G. Wigatman, chief executive of Sketchley, has joined the Board of Quality as chairman, and Mr. T. L. Adam, finance director of Sketchley, has also joined the Board. Mr. J. Stanning continues on the Board of Quality.

Mr. E. C. S. Howard, chairman of the company until its acquisition by Sketchley, has retired and therefore ceases to be a member of the Quality Board. Mr. S. H. L. Porter, Mr. J. C. Smith and Mr. L. W. Turrell have resigned from the Quality Board but continue in their executive capacities. Mr. K. W. Barker, who was a consultant to the company and for many years a member of the Quality Board, will also be retiring.

The Board of ROCKWELL, a GKN Engineering subsidiary, has been reconstituted. Mr. R. Humphrey Bougton becomes managing director. Mr. Peter Bartsby is appointed director and general works manager, and Mr. John Wilson, from BOG International, is appointed marketing director.

Mr. Garry Blythe remains chairman. Other members of the Board are Mr. A. Provis and Mr. J. Gault. Mr. Boughton becomes a director of GKN-LINCOLN ELECTRIC COMPANY. Mr. J. L. Hamilton has recently retired from the Board.

Mr. Ralph A. Fields has been elected to fill the vacant post of chairman of HOWARD AND WYNNDHAM. He will retain his position as managing director.

To enable him to concentrate on his duties as group treasurer Mr. Derek Williams has relinquished the post of group company secretary of ASSOCIATED TELEVISION CORPORATION. He appointed managing director of P. C. Bryson has been appointed Buchanan and Mr. F. S. Platou.

PILLSBURY REFRIGERATED FOODS U.K., a division of formerly company secretary and for the group's insurance interests as well as his duties as based company. Mr. Sargent was Prince of Scotland. Mr. J. W. Lucas has been appointed group Unilever and recently was general D. R. O. Williams, chief building company secretary but will now manager with Smethurst Foods officer have joined the executive legal department.

Mr. Denis W. Oliver has been appointed financial director of SPHERES LTD. appointed a director of IRELAND ALLOYS (HOLDINGS) LTD. DRAKE (UNDERWRITING), part of the Alexander Howden group.

Mr. J. N. Oppenhein has been appointed to the Board of DOLGOSWELL HOLDINGS. Mr. Maurice Rasmussen has been appointed a corporate banking manager.

Mr. Bernard N. Kelly, executive director of S. C. Warburg and F. Sheridan, Mr. E. Whitfield and Mr. F. Krebs are not seeking re-

appointment to the Board of ASSOCIATED SPRING CORPORATION, of Bristol, Connecticut meeting.

LUND HUMPHRIES ADVERTISING reports the appointment to appointed commercial director of the Board of Mr. John H. Stead, C. T. BOWRING (LONDON). He who will be responsible for the comes from Coopers and client handling services of the Lybrand.

Mr. David Grant has been appointed marketing director of and Mr. A. Cochran have been PHILIP MORRIS LTD CO. which appointed to the Board of the OLDHAM ESTATE COMPANY.

Former marketing director Mr. R. E. Swallow and Mr. A. T. Brian Soddy, has left to take up a marketing post with BENSON AND HEDGES (CANADA), Philip Morris' Canadian subsidiary.

Mr. Vince H. McFadyne has been appointed financial controller of RUBERY OWEN HYDRAULICS a company in the Rubery Owen Group. He will be responsible to Mr. James Lyon, the managing director, for all financial aspects of the company.

Following Mr. Walter Barratt's move from Finance and Administration director to the position of chief executive and secretary of the ENGLISH INDUSTRIAL ESTATES CORPORATION. Mr. J. G. T. S. Ankarcrona, Mr. K. G. Buchanan and Mr. F. S. Platou.

All of these Securities have been sold. This announcement appears as a matter of record only.

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FINANCIAL TIMES REPORT

Wednesday September 24 1975

JESUS GOLDE

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

The Dominican economy has been expanding fast, helped by new export lines such as ferro-nickel and precious metals and windfall profits from sugar sales. Nevertheless the majority of the population have seen little change in their way of life and hunger and unemployment are chronic.

18th century cathedral with the tomb of Columbus. Santo Domingo must be counted one of the wonders of America.

The history of the city has a particular interest for English people for in 1855 it held out against the expeditionary force sent by Oliver Cromwell which finally ended up gassing Jamaica for Britain.

The countryside is lush and beautiful, the excellent beaches are often deserted, and the whole country is made reasonably accessible by a good road network. The climate is such as Londoners and New Yorkers dream of. Nor are modern conveniences lacking. Airline services are good and telephoning London from Santo Domingo takes a fraction of the time needed to complete the operation in the reverse direction.

The new cultural centre should soon be attracting performing artists from the U.S. and Europe while in the persons of Guillermo Pérez, Fernando Pérez, De Filio and others the Dominican Republic is producing some notable painters. With such assets the country cannot fail to attract an increasing number of visitors to its shores.

Sadly, however, the visitor's Dominican Republic is not the real Dominican Republic. It would not be too much to say that behind the attractive face that the country presents to the visitor there lies a society which, as far as the majority of its members is concerned, does not work.

It is true that the in-
ugs including the early dices most quoted to indicate

Precarious

But despite this growth the benefits of an expanding economy have been retained in the hands of a small group of people. The lot of much of the rest of the population is precarious. The principal headline on Monday of last week in El Caribe, the strongly established daily of Santo Domingo, was "Half Dominicans estimated to be going hungry."

There followed a report on a seminar held in the Autonomous University of Santo Domingo which it was shown that twin evils which have deeper

roots in the International Labour Organisation's World Employment Programme show, has not been the main cause of these facts. But the drought, as Dominicans can research and the inquiries of the International Labour Organisation's World Employment Programme show, has not been the main cause of these facts.

But the drought, as Dominicans can research and the inquiries of the International Labour Organisation's World Employment Programme show, has not been the main cause of these facts.

But the state of Dominican society to-day must be of more to work under the presence of ton and Dr. Balaguer will bring

the growth of the economy and the country consumed only in the social structure of the than local interest. It must some 45 American technicians; colour any discussion of Latin the National Police and other American politics and in security agencies of the State particular of any appraisal of were advised by about 15 Ameri- the relations of the U.S. with can experts in question of its immediate neighbours. public security . . ."

To accompany the chronic hunger and chronic unemployment there has more recently been an upsurge in a number of anti-social activities. By declaring as he did recently that corruption stopped "at the door of my office" President Balaguer implicitly confirmed the impression abroad in the country that there has been a growing tide of bribery and speculation at the higher levels of society involving even well known figures within the administration. It must be emphasised that Dr. Balaguer lives modestly and without the showy luxury of Generalissimo Rafael Leonidas Trujillo, the Dominican dictator whom he served for so many years till his assassination in 1952, but at the same time he has taken no action which would reassure those who suspect misuse of government funds.

Rightly or wrongly the impression is rife that corruption is a part of the political system and serves to enrich and soothe those who might otherwise be political embarrassments.

Equally pervasive is the impression that the Dominican Republic has become something of a home for the U.S. Mafia. Allegations of its excursions into gambling, racketeering, hotel keeping and the narcotics trade are difficult to substantiate, but the frequent business visits to the Republic of well-known figures with connections with the U.S. underworld are proven facts.

But the state of Dominican society to-day must be of more to work under the presence of ton and Dr. Balaguer will bring

BASIC STATISTICS

Area	18,704 sq. miles
Population	4.78m.
GNP (1974)	2.97bn. pesos
TRADE 1974	
Imports (f.o.b.)	673m. pesos
Exports (f.o.b.)	637m. pesos
Imports from U.K.	£5.4m.
Exports to U.K.	£10.6m.
Currency: Pesos (U.S.)	£1=2.38 pesos

any rapid betterment of conditions. The drive towards rapid adoption of birth control in the Republic (it is being planned to increase the 94 birth control clinics now operating to 181 by the beginning of next year) is, because of the close co-operation he has enjoyed with Washington, also, call into question the effectiveness of U.S. policy in the Dominican Republic over the past decade.

While it is true that the threat to U.S. interests such as President Lyndon Johnson feared it might when he ordered the 1965 invasion, the spectacle of a half starving, half unemployed Dominican Republic ten years after the event is the poorest advertisement for the policies followed by successive U.S. administrations and Dr. Balaguer acting together.

Nor does it seem that the new joint strategy for development being worked out by Washington and Dr. Balaguer will bring

Hugh O'Shaughnessy
Latin America Correspondent

le long
ad

osperity

OF that small but distinctive group of people like their holidays in the Republic and with the impression having visited a land of

are indeed a thousand to entrance the visitor, cans as a race are the most friendly, us and dignified people Caribbean. This is a fact amply reflected in the way they treat their guests and makes a stay in their Hispaniola in Santo to itself, say, or many in the Republic, a delight.

the encouragement of Joaquin Balaguer, poetry has often taken capital as its subject, Domingo, has been d with love and care. first surviving European in the Western sphere, the old town is full w resplendent colonial

ugs including the early dices most quoted to indicate

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GOLF MAGAZINE

"It's fantastic. The most beautiful tennis resort anywhere in the world!"

CHICAGO TRIBUNE

"Food and service are superb."

SATURDAY REVIEW



Costasur Resorts

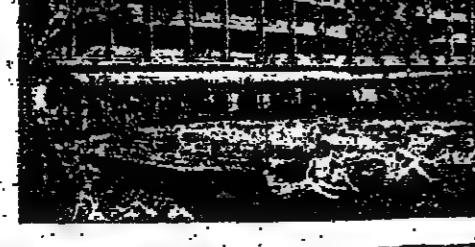
Hotel Romana. 77 rooms. Near the sugar mill; 1½ hours from Santo Domingo by car. Overlooks ocean and landscaped gardens. Pool, tennis, beach, fishing, sailing, riding and golf. Meetings for up to 120.

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Santo Domingo. Hotel Hispaniola. 165 rooms. Near downtown Santo Domingo. Overlooking the Caribbean. Pool, discotheque. One of Santo Domingo's best hotel bargains. Meetings for up to 450.

Hotel Santo Domingo. 220 rooms. Overlooking the Caribbean near downtown Santo Domingo. Shopping arcade. Tennis, saunas, pool. New hotel in charming old world setting. Meetings for up to 400.

Site of the 16th Annual Governors' Assembly, Inter-American Development Bank, May 1975.



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DOMINICAN REPUBLIC II

the dominican republic

is a growing country...

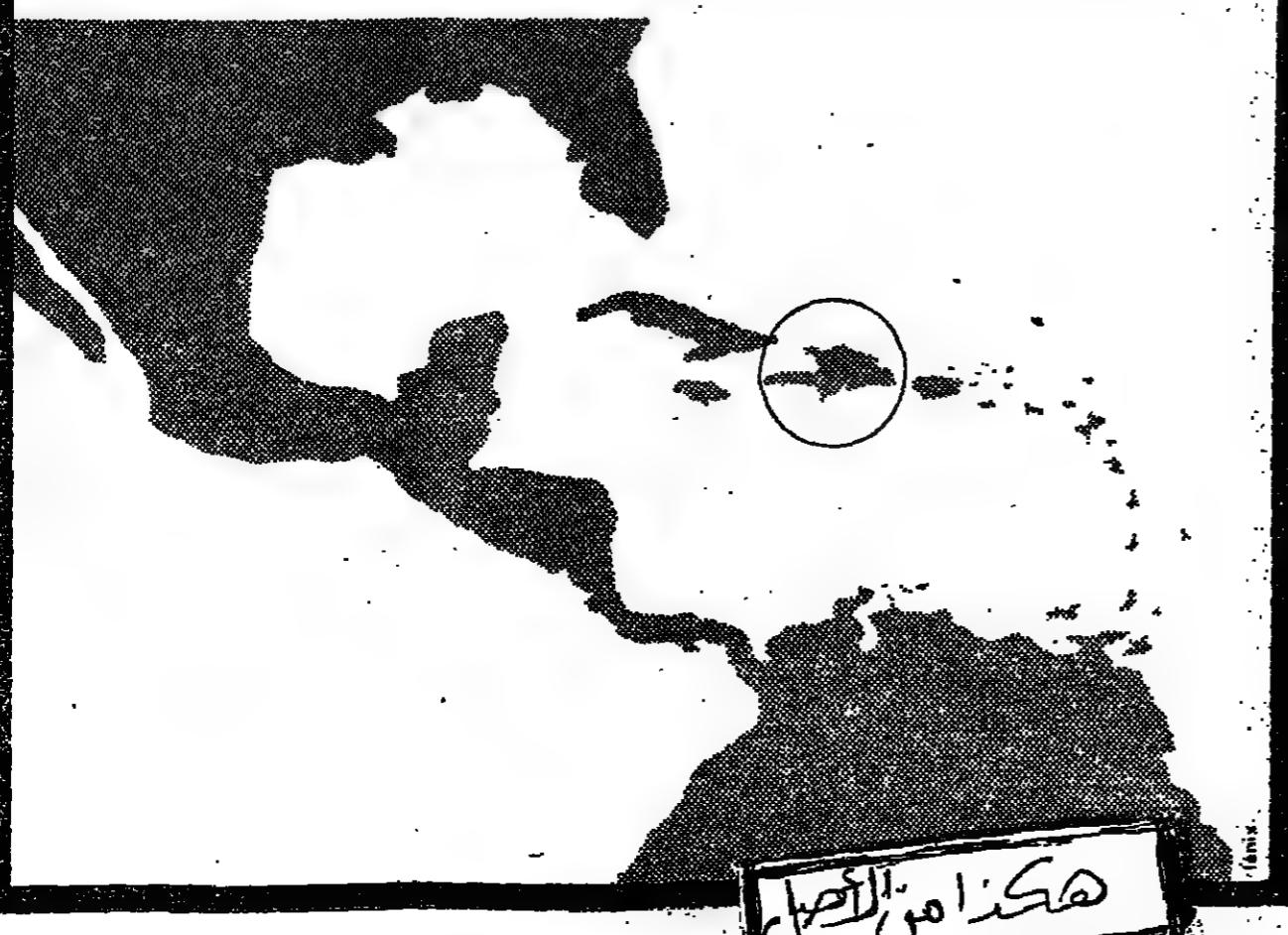
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3460021 ITT — Tel. 565-2151 SANTO DOMINGO, DOMINICAN REPUBLIC.



Artificial aids to the economy

By dint of massive aid and investment, the U.S. has restarted the growth of the economy which it halted during the 1965 invasion. One billion dollars of private investment and \$350m. of direct transfers to the Balaguer Government from Washington have caused the Republic to expand fast. Over the past five years the GDP has increased on average 10.6 per cent a year and last year the rate was a very acceptable 8.8 per cent. A building boom and continued demand from the government for public works pushed up the growth of the construction industry in 1974 to 12.6 per cent, though agriculture barely kept ahead of the growth of the population, managing to expand by no more than 3.3 per cent.

Despite a fast growth rate for industry and mining the Dominican Republic is very predominantly a rural agricultural economy with slightly over half the population living on the land which provides about three quarters of exports.

Export

The agricultural sector is highly export oriented so that last year nearly 20 per cent of its import bill went on food imports. Despite some official attempts to get farmers growing the staple foods Dominicans eat, the pull of the export markets has been strong at a time when international food prices, and in particular the international sugar price, have been high.

Last year 1.3m. short tons of sugar were produced, more than twice as much as was harvested in the invasion year of 1965 and the sugar could have been sold on the U.S. market for nearly 30 cents per pound c.i.f. New York, four times the price of 6.90 cents per pound ruling in 1968 was exported but it pro-



It has therefore been the case that anyone who could grow sugar latterly has been growing it. High prices for meat have also induced many land owners unable to grow sugar cane to take to cattle and pig production which have grown nearly 20 per cent in value since the end of the 1960s, much faster, that is, than the rest of the farm sector.

Much smaller than the sugar sector, but more buoyant and increasingly important in the export league is mining. In 1967 the Dominican Republic sphere this year and reach next year's target of 350,000 troy ounces of gold and 1.5m. troy ounces of silver. Dominican exports in the south-west of the country and that provided 82 per cent of commodity exports. Last year \$17.7m. worth of should be tourism. More than surplus in 1973 and 1968 on the U.S. market and valued only 2.8 per cent of infrastructural works, more than 13 times the 1968 commodity export revenue sites, the superb north coast having long since been over-area of Puerto Plata and the world price.

taken by the big Falconbridge Boca Chica resort and terminal operation, which brought in \$92m. and provided almost 15 per cent of revenue. It is very possible that in its turn the Falconbridge operation will be overtaken by the which is building on a Rosario gold and silver operation which started exporting in Western, U.S. comp-

ies which is thought to be doing better than and which is the owner expected in its production of biggest single sugar in Canada and the U.S. as a gold the Hispaniola in the

sector, but more buoyant and is likely to take its place behind with its La Romana

in the Western Hemisphere and is building another in the Santo Domingo.

The increasing work force that they tripled between 1970 and 1974, and sustain the record in

fact that they are still possible that the Dominican Republic will be back black again this year

(trade account).

Ambitious plans for tourism

A COUNTRY that in the past 15 years has known a brutal dictatorship, a presidential assassination, a military coup to the country has been growing. Much still has to be done, but a 15-month U.S. military occupation in 1970 and 249,550 last year. Of apparent. The ghosts of guerilla activity hardly springs to mind as the ideal spot for a neighbouring Puerto Rico. Some of the vagabonds have been

were, of course, businessmen evicted. But despite the unnecessary display of heavily-armed soldiers and police on the streets but a growing number—74,325 last year—were visitors from the U.S. The Government's tourist development projects will aim to give cruise ships or genuine tourists travelling the country. Last year, "tourists" in their broadest sense spent \$52m., but these figures do not include the 58,782 Dominicans living abroad who came for a holiday and spent \$11.7m. According to current projections from the National Tourist Department, the Dominican Republic should be visited by 750,000 people a year by 1979 and they should spend \$162m.

The thinking behind the decision to give priority to tourism in the country's general development strategy is sound: the country has a rather shaky international reputation which could be amended by playing good host to foreign visitors and by clever promotion; tourists can make a significant contribution to the country's balance of payments; awareness of the Dominican Republic through tourism may attract the attention of foreign investors; and the labour-intensive tourist industry can help both directly and through its multiplier effect on services, to reduce the country's chronic problem of unemployment.

The Dominican Republic, which shares the Island of Hispaniola with Haiti, does have considerable tourist potential, although so far it possesses little in the way of tourist facilities. Perhaps the main point is that it is one hour's flying time from Miami and only three hours from New York. In other words, it is within easy striking distance of the U.S. eastern seaboard and it is already well connected by air. Lake Enriquillo, which lies below sea-level and is inhabited by crocodiles, can be reached coinciding with the freezing weather in most of the U.S. The sea is, of course, warm and the country possesses long stretches of undeveloped, unspoiled white beaches.

As the first Spanish colony in the western hemisphere, the Republic has a particularly interesting history, which can be traced not only in splendid colonial buildings and monuments, but also in pre-hispanic artifacts. Finally, Dominicans are themselves a lively, amusing and generous people who have painlessly blended their European and African heritages, familiar to such cultural adven-

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DOMINICAN REPUBLIC III

Sugar boom lingers on

DSUGAR prices may convolution of the sugar market dropped, but the sugar last winter was therefore an opportunity not to be missed in the Dominican Republic because most and, perhaps through instinct, the country's harvest was sold or sheer luck, the country's year's break high prices entered the market at the right result, despite a severe time.

As is often the case with sugar, the Republic's production has varied wildly over the past 15 years. In 1960, for example, output reached 1,225m tonnes, fell to 642,514 tonnes in 1965, and climbed

it is of course both the Republic's main crop and its total export. The sudden

Last year it topped 1,316m tonnes and this year it may not exceed 1,220 tonnes. Combined with price changes, this has run by the State Sugar Council means chronic instability for the country's trade figures which have swung between red and black depending on sugar export levels and prices. Nevertheless, sugar has rarely accounted for less than 50 per cent of the country's foreign exchange earnings.

Of the 16 mills operating

property of General Trujillo although some 8,000 independent farmers also sell their cane to the Government and to the mills.

To achieve the medium-term objective of increasing production 65 per cent—\$46,700 ton to 2m tonnes per annum by 1980, plantations must probably still run independently, while the La Romana mill was bought from the South Puerto Rico Sugar Company by the U.S. conglomerate, Gulf and Western, in 1967, and is the only mill in foreign hands. All the mills own cane-fields,

The reluctance of Dominicans to work in the cane-fields is elimination of the U.S. system therefore creating a serious social problem for the immediate impact was of course Dominican Government. With cushioned by the high prices prevailing last winter, but now growing rapidly while the Haitian many Latin American exporters are having to enter the world market for the first time. In 1974, for example, the Republic had a final quota of 934,000 tons, although because of other commitments only 784,758 tons were eventually exported to the U.S. cane-cutters to enter the "We liked the stability offered

by the quota," the Inazucar official explained, "although the U.S. may now have to offer better than the world market price to ensure supplies." Other countries are also seeking bilateral agreements with the Republic to ensure their long-term supplies. Even last year the country exported sugar to 13 other nations: Britain (36,230 tonnes) and France (37,754 tonnes) bought significant quantities.

Because of the vulnerability of the Latin American sugar producers, the Republic has been actively participating in an informal association of the continent's exporters, including Cuba. Although a meeting in Puerto Plata in April failed to reach agreement on a concerted plan of action, a consensus emerged that efforts should be made to hold the world price of sugar at around 20 cents a pound. How this can be achieved without agreement among all key sugar exporters is difficult to imagine, but were the Latin Americans at least willing to establish their own buffer stocks, this might inspire those other developing countries whose economies depend to differing degrees on a steady as well as reasonable price for their sugar.

Alan Riding

Mining operations

DOMINICAN Republic is mining as an important industry despite the Government's lack of interest in the sector. The regime's apparent apathy has enabled foreign companies to invest facing the stringent conditions imposed by parts of Latin America. This is failing to benefit fully the exploitation of its non-renewable resources. Not exception, official es and publications say mining as one of the Republic's potential growth sectors. The sector's share of GDP grew from an average 1.2 per cent between 1962 and 1964 to 1.7 per cent in 1972, while last year alone rose by 10 per cent. Its share of commodity exports also increased from 7.2 per cent in 1970 to 17.2 per cent last year. The company's revenue from \$13.6m in 1970—8m—and should increase again this year.

MINES
so far the Government's revenue from the mining sector is not available. It is capable of monitoring behaviour and stimulating growth of mining. The Ministry of Mining and Commerce's Department of Mining is an aging woodframe, where endless forms are in but apparently no new ones taken. The head of department is a less than a political appointee who is uninterested in mining. His young assistants lack the experience to take the activities of the large foreign concerns here. The result is not only the most modest mining in the country's history, but also the geological surveys of the mining companies are the only source of information on the mining sector.

present, only bauxite, nickel, silver and gold are produced and traded by the three foreign firms. Another 15 concessions have been granted for the extraction of zinc, manganese, iron ore, mercury and clay, although prospecting is not taking place in all 15 since some of the concessions were obtained for speculative purposes. Texaco is currently discussing the possibility of exploring for oil. It is the oldest mining firm in the Republic, and other companies began operation in the past three years. It was the main target of criticism because it was originally signed by the dictatorship of Gen. Leonidas Trujillo. The other major development, eventually expected to cost about \$80m, is already under way at the seaside town of Puerto Plata on the northern coast. The country's northern beaches are the most beautiful and if the Puerto Plata project is successful, development will continue east along that coast. The World Bank has lent the Dominican Republic \$39m. for this project, the design and

40 miles north of Santo Domingo. After five years spent developing the necessary technology to extract nickel from the laterite ores and another two years in construction of a processing plant, shipments of ferro-nickel began in December, 1971. By 1974, exports were running at above planned capacity, with shipments of 68.7m lb of nickel worth \$101.5m, compared to exports of 56.3m lb worth \$81.2m.

Falconbridge Dominica is owned 65.7 per cent by Falconbridge Nickel Mines of Canada, 17.5 per cent by Arco Steel of the U.S., 9.5 per cent by the Dominican Government and 7.8 per cent by various Canadian and Dominican interests. The company has a share capital of only \$15m, with the result that most of the cost of the project had to be borrowed; \$114m. in long-term loans from the Metropolitan Life, Equitable and Northwestern Mutual Insurance companies of the U.S., \$25m. from the World Bank and \$41m. in short-term credit from the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce and the First National City Bank of New York. For several years to come, a good part of the company's earnings will therefore be consumed in paying interest and principal on this debt.

The project's financial prospects have been particularly bad hit by the sharp rise in the cost of oil. The company's processing plant depends on oil-fired electricity and the cost of the 3.5m barrels imported by Falconbridge Dominica each year has increased five-fold—by about \$35m.—since production began. Between 1973 and 1974, for example, operating costs rose from \$45.3m. to \$74.8m., while operating profit fell from \$45.3m. to \$28.6m. Similarly, after-tax earnings dropped from \$14.1m. in 1973 to just \$2.1m. last year.

One result is that the Dominican Government has not received revenues of the dimension it had been led to anticipate when the project was being prepared. For example, it re-

ceived only \$6.8m. in 1973 and \$0.87m. in 1974 in income-tax from Falconbridge, which pays 33 per cent tax on profits. And while it received \$285,000 in dividends in 1973, it received no dividends in 1972 or 1974. The company nevertheless claims that the Republic received about \$20m. in taxes and wages paid to the 1,988 local employees (there are a further 105 foreigners working for the company).

For the moment, however, there is no indication that the Government is dissatisfied with its lot, although it would be no surprise if it were eventually demanded that the company either pay tax on its operating profit before interest on its debt is covered or simply pay a higher rate of tax on its net earnings. In either case, it would compensate for the absence of dividends on the Government's 9.5 per cent share of the capital.

A.R.

Through a recent agreement between the CEA and Gulf and Western, however, the Government is trying to tap some of the modern technology being implemented by the private firms by establishing a mixed venture to produce all the spare parts needed by the sugar mills, thus saving not only foreign exchange but also time often wasted while waiting for spare parts to arrive from abroad.

The areas under cane have increased steadily over the past few years, although they still do not exceed 10 per cent of all cultivable land. This year, for example, the cane plantations increased by 30 per cent to over 250,000 hectares and this would be reflected in a sharp generation.

Consequently, despite memories of the massacre of between 10,000 and 20,000 Haitians on orders from General Trujillo in 1937, the Haitians keep coming and the Haitian population keeps growing. Most Dominicans who are pure black are of Haitian descent, although they invariably integrate into society. For sugar producers, particularly those in the Western Hemisphere, the sales out-

Tourism

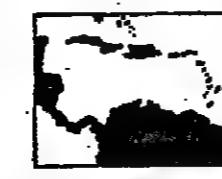
CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

Boca Chica looks out into the supervision of which is in the Bay of Andrés where the green-blue water is clear and ideal for underwater fishing. The other major development, eventually expected to cost about \$80m., is already under way at the seaside town of Puerto Plata on the northern coast. The country's northern beaches are the most beautiful and if the Puerto Plata project is successful, development will continue east along that coast. The World Bank has lent the Dominican Republic \$39m. for this project, the design and

construction of which is in the hands of the British company Sir William Halcrow and Partners. A new international airport is being built there and the runway has been completed for the past year as work on the terminal building along. Puerto Plata is particularly known for the San Felipe fort which was built on rocks off the town in 1553.

The principal tourist development in private hands is being carried out by the U.S. conglomerate, Gulf and Western, at the town of La Romana, 120 km east of Santo Domingo. Gulf and Western first moved to La Romana in 1967 when it bought the huge sugar mill and 300,000 acres of land. The company then decided to convert the Old Bachelor's Residence into a 72-room hotel, which now also doubles up as the club for company executives. It is a hotel of unusual contrasts: the front looks directly on to the Caribbean, while the back stands close to the sugar mill with its chimneys and constant smell of molasses.

But the success of the government's two projects—at Boca Chica and Puerto Plata—will probably determine whether the country as a whole is to benefit from a tourist take-off in the next decade. One reassuring consideration is that both projects will be closely supervised by the international agencies that are making available financing. Private hotel chains are therefore more likely to be attracted to the projects in the knowledge that the infrastructure is not being built haphazardly. For such companies, there are added fiscal incentives, including a 100 per cent exemption from income tax and customs duties and partial exemption from construction taxes.



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BY OUR WALL STREET CORRESPONDENT

EARLIER LOSSES were partially recovered on Wall Street to-day, when the market wandered at random in the absence of stimulating news.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average finished 0.55 off at \$18.83, after opening 5.05 down at \$18.52, rallying 7.74 to \$18.68 and finally recovering to \$18.83. The NYSE All Common Index shed 8 cents to \$43.06, while losses led gains by 804 to 803. Trading volume further decreased 1.85m. shares to 12.5m.

Many traders were awaiting the start of oil price negotiations by the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries in Vienna, to-morrow.

Analysts believed that part of the caution on the part of investors also stemmed from worry about the outlook for interest rates for the remainder of the year.

Operators showed no apparent reaction to a statement by Administration Economist Alan Greenspan that the nation's economic recovery is stronger than expected.

DuPont shed \$1 to \$11.67 and Merck lost \$2 to \$6.

Exxon surrendered another \$2 to \$51— it expects little change in earnings for 1975.

Sherling Plough were down \$1 to \$50. J. C. Penney \$1 to \$43.23 and Coca-Cola \$1 to \$73.25.

But Natomas gained \$1 to \$25.10 on an oil flow at a well offshore Indonesia.

Chevron Industries picked up \$1 to \$71— its Board approved an offer for 300,000 Common shares at \$71 each.

Vaca Oil climbed a further \$1 to \$52.60 ascribed to acquire G. P. Putman's Sons, which rose \$1 to \$15.

On the American SE Fisher Foods declined \$1 to \$37 on its expectation of lower third quarter earnings.

Avery Products gave \$1 to \$25 on a third quarter net of 12.48c per share.

The American SE Market Value Index was 0.46 to \$4.14, with dealers outnumbering advances by 91 to 158.

Westar Petroleum, the most active issue put on \$1 to \$81 on 55,500 shares.

Frier Industries climbed \$1 to \$37 on plans for a Debenture exchange offer.

OTHER MARKETS

Canada lower

Canadian Stock Markets turned lower in light trading yesterday.

The Industrial Share Index lost 1.13 to 174.78. Goods 2.88 to 280.87, Base Metals 0.40 to 73.22, Utilities 0.30 to 120.65, Banks 0.04 to 271.20 and Paper 0.08 to 109.27.

Western Oils put on 0.90 to 182.35.

AMERICAN SE MARKET VALUE INDEX

Surpass 100 Am. 31. 1972.

1975 Sep. 22 Sep. 22 Sep. 16 Sept. 17

Up Down Unchanged

1.774 1.774 1.774

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New Highs 8 7 11 5 1

Low 8 8 12 8 44

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ARMING AND RAW MATERIALS

Hole in EC grain aide claim

Our Commodities Staff

GOVERNMENT investigation of a possible loophole in EEC rules enabling traders to a profit of £3 a ton on grain prices which producers of quality grain will receive for their grain was announced yesterday by Mr. Ron Thomas, Labour MP for Bristol North West.

Mr. Thomas said that 800 tons of grain was to be loaded on the ship from which it had been unloaded 24 hours earlier, when the grain was unloaded, the price of a pint of beer would go up by another 1 pence this autumn.

When that happens, ordinary drinkers of the ship will pay a pence and "gold top," now costing 8p to 10p. The 2p premium will remain for six months, after which the Ministry will review the position. About six per cent of liquid milk sold in England and Wales is "gold top." Cheshire, the Isle of Wight, South Devon and South Wales are the only areas where people are switching to the new product.

The Ministry's announcement follows representations by the Milk Marketing Board, Quality Milk Producers' organization and the Dairy Trade Federation. They warned of shortages and rationing of quality milk supplies if producers were not given a return that covered extra costs.

Although a pint would

cost 10p, the Minister said

that the extra cost would be

borne by the industry.

Mr. Fred Pfeifer, the

Minister of Agriculture, said:

"It is a very confusing situ-

ation. But I think the Minis-

try of Agriculture will review

the position. About six per cent

of liquid milk sold in Eng-

land and Wales is "gold top."

Cheshire, the Isle of Wight,

South Devon and South Wales

are the only areas where

people are switching to the

new product."

He said such action was

authorised by the Agriculture

Department.

Seal pelts export

in sought

Our Commodities Editor

EA FOR Britain to ban the import of seal pelts from South Africa because of the inhumane methods of slaughter was made on Friday by Mr. Ken Whiting, executive director of the Beauty Without Cruelty.

Whiting said he had just fled from giving evidence before the House of Commons Select Committee on Animal Welfare on the international wool market.

He pointed out that the three major wool exporting countries—Australia, New Zealand and South Africa—were adopting a co-operative approach to wool pricing policies. New Zealand had also adjusted its "wool floor" price to the Australian level when the New Zealand wool was deviated in August.

The Australian Wool Corporation announced, meanwhile, that it had reduced its offer to the key buyer of Australian wool. There is also increasing evidence that the "floor" price

to be offered from \$43,000 bales

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STOCK EXCHANGE REPORT

Golds weak and equities take a turn for the worse

Share index down 9.8 at 334.9—Gilt-edged give ground

Account Dealing Dates

Option First Declara- Last Account

Deals ions Dealings Day

Sep. 8 Sep. 18 Sep. 19 Sep. 30

Sep. 23 Oct. 2 Oct. 3 Oct. 14

Oct. 6 Oct. 16 Oct. 17 Oct. 28

"Now these deals may take place from 9.30 a.m. business day."

Stock markets put on a generally depressing performance yesterday. A fresh setback of \$129.75 an ounce in the price of bullion prompted some fairly business for investment dollars.

Heavy selling of Gold mining shares, and despite several attempted rallies, closing levels were around the day's worst. The extent of the reaction was reflected in the Gold Mines Index which sustained a fall of 21.7 to 252.5, its lowest since January 10, 1974.

Gilt-edged and equities were unsettled by continued lack of support in sterling against the U.S. dollar and by concern about to-day's announcement of measures to reduce unemployment which led to fears of a further increase in Government borrowing. Gilt-edged finished the day with widespread losses, extending to 3 p.m. the Government Securities Index gave up 0.31 to 302.4. After the previous day's late turnaround, leading industrial encoutered a fair amount of selling as jobbers unwilling to take too much stock on their books, the reaction in prices was quite severe. The FT 30-share index closed at its lowest of 9.8 at 334.9.

Secondary issues, however, in the wake of the miners, but losses were fairly modest, and new bright spots emerged as the day's easier trend. "Royals" declined 3-2 in FT quoted Industrial, while the FT-Actuaries All-Share index gave up 2.5 per cent. to 146.30. There was a marked contraction in the level of activity, official markings of 5,912 compared with 5,615 on Monday.

Gilt-edged and equities take a turn for the worse

tinuing fall in sterling and fears about to-day's expected announcement by the Government on measures to curb unemployment undermined sentiment in the gilt-edged market. Short-dated stocks met with light selling and closed with falls ranging to 1%, while medium and long-haul extended to 1%. However, as on Monday, the level of trade left much to be desired.

A fresh setback of \$129.75 an ounce in the price of bullion prompted some fairly business for investment dollars. Heavy selling of Gold mining shares, and despite several attempted rallies, closing levels were around the day's worst. The extent of the reaction was reflected in the Gold Mines Index which sustained a fall of 21.7 to 252.5, its lowest since January 10, 1974.

The big four Banks cheapened from the start on light profit-taking and lack of support.

Lloyds lost the revenue fall of 10 to 230p, while Barclays, 250p, Midland, 250p, and National Westminster, 230p, were all 8 lower.

Foreign issues also had a bad day with Standard and Chartered particularly weak at 470p, down 20. Australia and New Zealand lost 12 to 38p and National Bank of Australia fell 8 to 250p. Merchant and canalised included Guinness, Port, 6 lower at 160p, and Klemmert Bremen, 8 lower at 220p.

Breweries moved up 2 to 29p on the half-yearly report. Similar losses were sustained by Taylor Woodrow, 250p, and R. Costain, 220p, while Whiteway, 121p, Tarmac, 150p, and Marley, 84p, all closed 9 cheaper. Ruberoid eased 2 to 19p on the first-half loss.

Breweries turned easier on light profit-taking. Arthur Guinness cheapened 2 to 125p, while Allied ended similarly lower at 70p and Bass Charrington shed 3 to 99p. Elsewhere, Teacher (Distillers), 210p, lost 10 of the report.

recent rise which followed speculation that either Bass Charrington or Seagrams could be possible suitors. Distillers gave up 3 to 114p.

Tisbury Contracting continued firmly in Buildings, improving 13 more to 183p following Press release 4 to 109p, while Burton Brown and Jackson responded to a comment on the interim results. A' 44p, and UDS, 89p, shed a penny apiece. Combined English Stores reacted to 74p before rallying to close only 2 easier on figures which failed to come up in market expectations. Losses of 160p, while Currys finished 11 cheaper at 45p. Against the trend, Ratners (Jewellers) moved up 2 to 32p.

Electricals closed on a dull note following a reasonable business. Plessey closed 3 easier at 89p, while GEC, 121p, and KML, 160p, lost 4 and 5 respectively.

Thorn EMI, A, still reflecting fears about the future of the consumer electronics industry, reacted 6 further to 210p for a two-day fall of 14. Newman Industries moved up 2 to 29p on the higher first-half profits.

Light selling was enough in the absence of buying to leave the engineering leaders with losses of up to 12p by the close. That much that, down at 160p following a placing of roughly 1m shares by an undisclosed loss of 137p each; the ordinary loss 12, 155p. Other miscellaneous leaders came back on profit-taking. Glaxo

ended 15 down at 370p, but the shares drifted back in market trading to close unchanged on the day at 37p, the interim on news that discussions are being held that may lead to a cash offer from Pears. Aspirin, 160p, lost 4 to 150p, and Trust Houses Forte, 105p, and 5 respectively.

Leatherhead, A, after a day's reactionary, the Ordinary closing 4 off at 89p and the new nil-pool shares finishing 3 cheaper at 88p premium.

Television Contractors had an easier bias, ATTV "A" closing 2 cheaper at 47p and HTV's easier at 10p.

Stores shifted lower on light selling and the lack of buying interest. Marks and Spencer recovered 4 to 109p, while Burton Brown and Jackson responded to a comment on the interim results. A' 44p, and UDS, 89p, shed a penny apiece. Combined English

Stores reacted to 74p before rallying to close only 2 easier on figures which failed to come up in market expectations. Losses of 160p, while Currys finished 11 cheaper at 45p. Tesco closing 2 easier at 48p and Lonsdale, 31p, and Internationa

Northern Foods featured with Woodrow Wyatt, 23, harder at 27p, a rise of 6 to 57p in active trading and Wace Group, 20, off at 15p.

Press comment on a broker's favourable review failed to stimulate interest in the Property leaders, which followed the general downward to finish with losses to 5. Land Securities had a rise of 6 to 57p in active trading and Wace Group, 20, off at 15p.

Southern Properties, the "after-hours" preliminary statement, ended 210p in front of to-day's interim statement, while other notable casualties included J. Hobby, 7 off at 57p. Supermarkets had an easier bias, Tesco closing 2 easier at 48p and Lonsdale, 31p, and Internationa

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FINANCIAL TIMES STOCK INDICES

	Sep. 22	Sep. 23	Sep. 24	Sep. 25	Sep. 26
Government Secs.	60.84	51.16	61.23	61.01	61.15
Fixed Interest	60.97	61.08	61.05	61.05	61.05
Industrial Ordinary	324.9	344.7	342.5	337.8	338.0
Gold Mines	285.8	286.9	286.5	286.3	286.3
Ord. Div. Yld. %	6.31	6.03	6.05	6.20	6.20
Secur. Ind. 210p	17.02	16.54	16.58	17.35	17.45
P/E Ratio (excl. oil)	8.33	8.67	8.57	8.16	8.05
Dealing record.	8,912	8,416	5,148	5,710	5,630
Equity turnover £m.	—	84.74	85.10	85.05	84.95
Equity bargains total.	—	19,298	19,294	18,649	18,755

10 a.m. 262.5 10 a.m. 251.1 10 a.m. 250.7

1 p.m. 265.1 1 p.m. 260.2

(a) Based on 52 PEP companies.

Mines 12/4/73. PEP Activity July-Dec. 1973.

HIGHS AND LOWS

	1970	Since Combination	1970	Since Combination
	High	Low	High	Low
Govt. Secs.	62.54	49.16	127.4	44.11
Corp. Bonds	62.03	49.03	126.0	44.03
Fixed Inc.	62.11	50.52	126.4	50.55
Industrial	321.0	311.0	340.0	310.0
Ind. Ord.	365.5	160.0	444.5	45.5
Gold Mines	442.8	285.3	442.5	43.5
Secur. Ind.	226.0	126.75	226.0	120.0

HIGHS AND LOWS

	S.E. ACTIV	
	High	Low
Govt. Secs.	62.54	49.16
Corp. Bonds	62.03	49.03
Fixed Inc.	62.11	50.52
Industrial	321.0	311.0
Ind. Ord.	365.5	160.0
Gold Mines	442.8	285.3
Secur. Ind.	226.0	126.75

RECENT HIGHS AND LOWS

price to \$128.75 per ounce, to morning fixing signalled retreat in Gold share heavy selling was reported.

Elsewhere, New London Properties was further unimproved.

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Wednesday September 24 1975

Jobs Bill defeat on 'conscience' clause

BY JOHN HUNT

THE GOVERNMENT suffered a heavy defeat on the opening of the next Parliamentary session very inside and outside the Protection Bill in the Lords—particularly if the Chancellor of the Exchequer were to decide a paragraph in the Bill said yesterday when the Liberals of the Exchequer were to decide a paragraph in the Bill said that an employee should have new Finance Bill were necessary.

The Lords' defeat of the Government on the Bill are only a last of Conservative peers' intentions to amend even more controversial Commons legislation, including the Submarine Pipeline Bill, the Community Land Bill and above all, the controversial Industry Bill.

There was also a further defeat later on another section.

The amendment, supported by the Conservatives and some Labour peers, was approved with a majority of 37 against the Government (121-54) during the committee stage of the Bill.

There was also a further defeat later on another section.

If the peers continue to amend important Government Bills at an increasing rate and the Government seeks to restore the changes in the Commons, the Cabinet will clearly be under heavy pressure in completing its legislative timetable by the end of the "spill-over period" of the present session, which begins on October 13.

Already, the Government has plans to extend this period to about a month, but to prolong it even further would produce ally changes a section which has

Union plea to black imports to save telecommunication jobs

BY JOHN WYLES, LABOUR REPORTER

PLANS FOR industrial action are part of a seven-point programme drawn up by leaders of the Electrical and Plumbing Trades Union yesterday in a bid to fight the wave of redundancies hitting the telecommunications industry.

Claiming up to 24,000 members in telecommunications, the EPTU has issued a plea to transport unions to black imports. It also aims to enlist the support of other unions in the industry as well as the TUC in a battle to press the Government to take action to prevent a cut in employment which could cost more than 15,000 jobs.

This has been widely forecast as the possible total number of redundancies which could be brought about by drastic cuts in the Post Office's equipment ordering programme. GEC has already announced a cutback of 4,800 over the next year while Plessey plans to make 2,000 workers redundant because of the P.O. cuts.

Calling for Government control over Post Office ordering, together with union participation in the distribution of orders, Mr. Frank Chapple, EPTU general secretary, claimed last night that

the technological future of the country was under attack because of "the sheer ineptitude of Government departments."

The EPTU would be submitting an emergency resolution on the situation to next week's Labour Party conference.

He would not rule out the use of industrial action including strikes to resist cuts announced at Plessey and GEC, adding that the EPTU national executive had decided yesterday that direct action must be an option for fighting any further redundancies.

More immediately, the EPTU is asking the TUC economic committee, on which Mr. Chapple sits, to urgently consider the jobs crisis in telecommunications. Mr. Chapple is also trying

France considers Japanese telephone exchanges. Page 4

to mount a direct approach to the Government with other unions in the industry.

The EPTU would also like to mount union action to prevent the importing of telecommunications equipment through approaches to the transport and railway unions. However, the level of imports in this area is low and any such action is unlikely to have much effect on re-equipment schemes.

A further move against imported equipment urged by the EPTU is that all public service contracts should be closely scrutinised by the trade union movement which should demand full explanations for all purchases abroad.

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